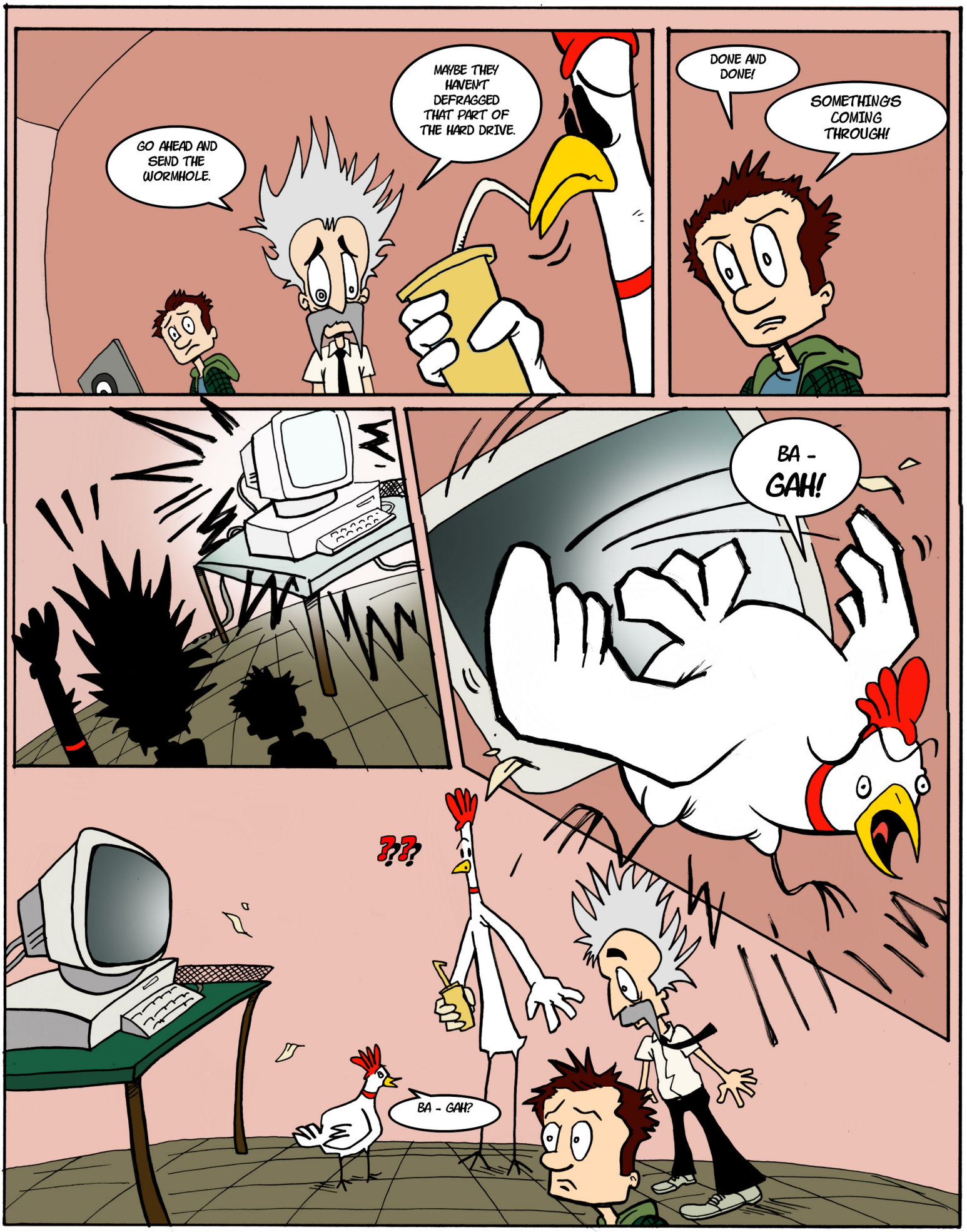
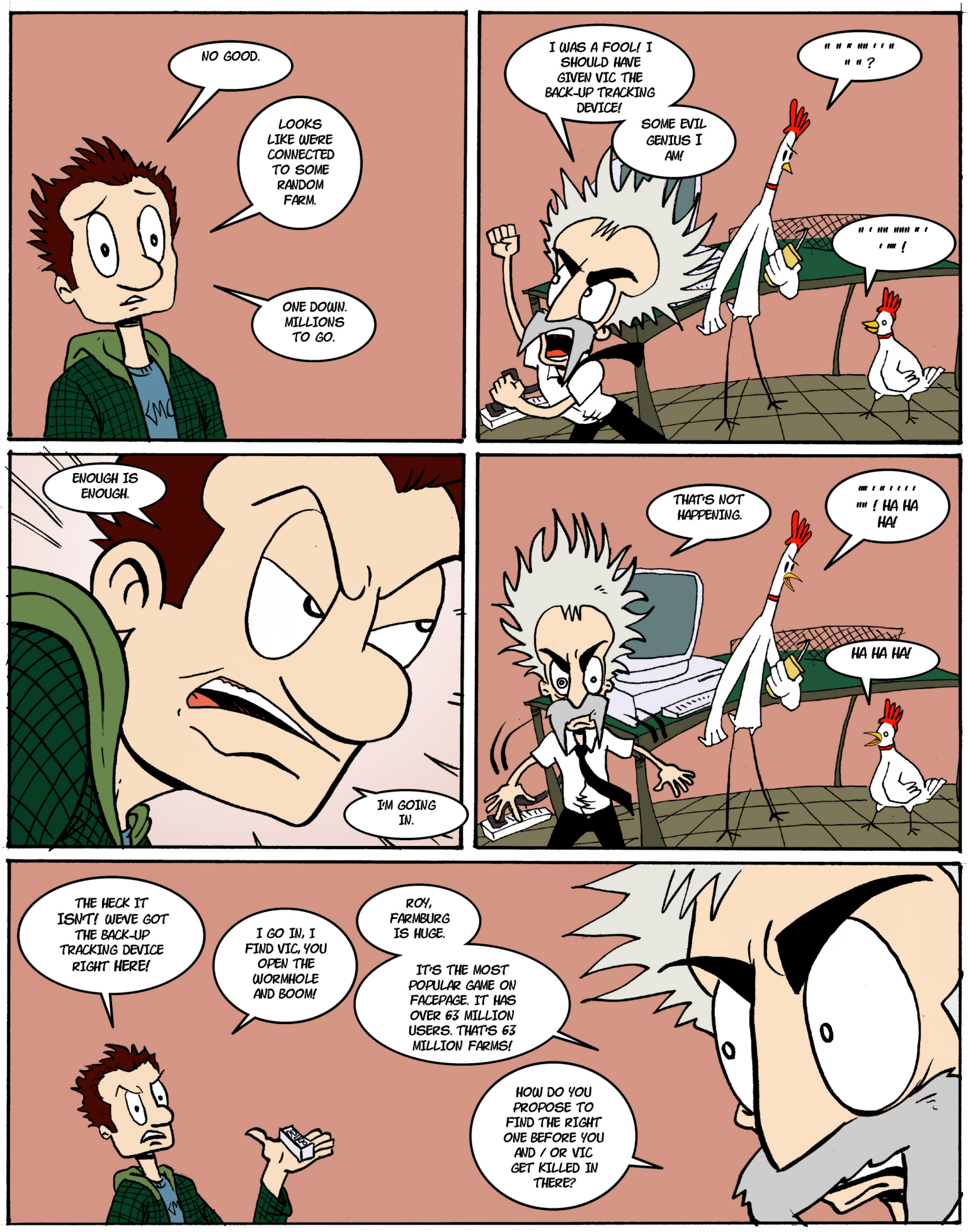
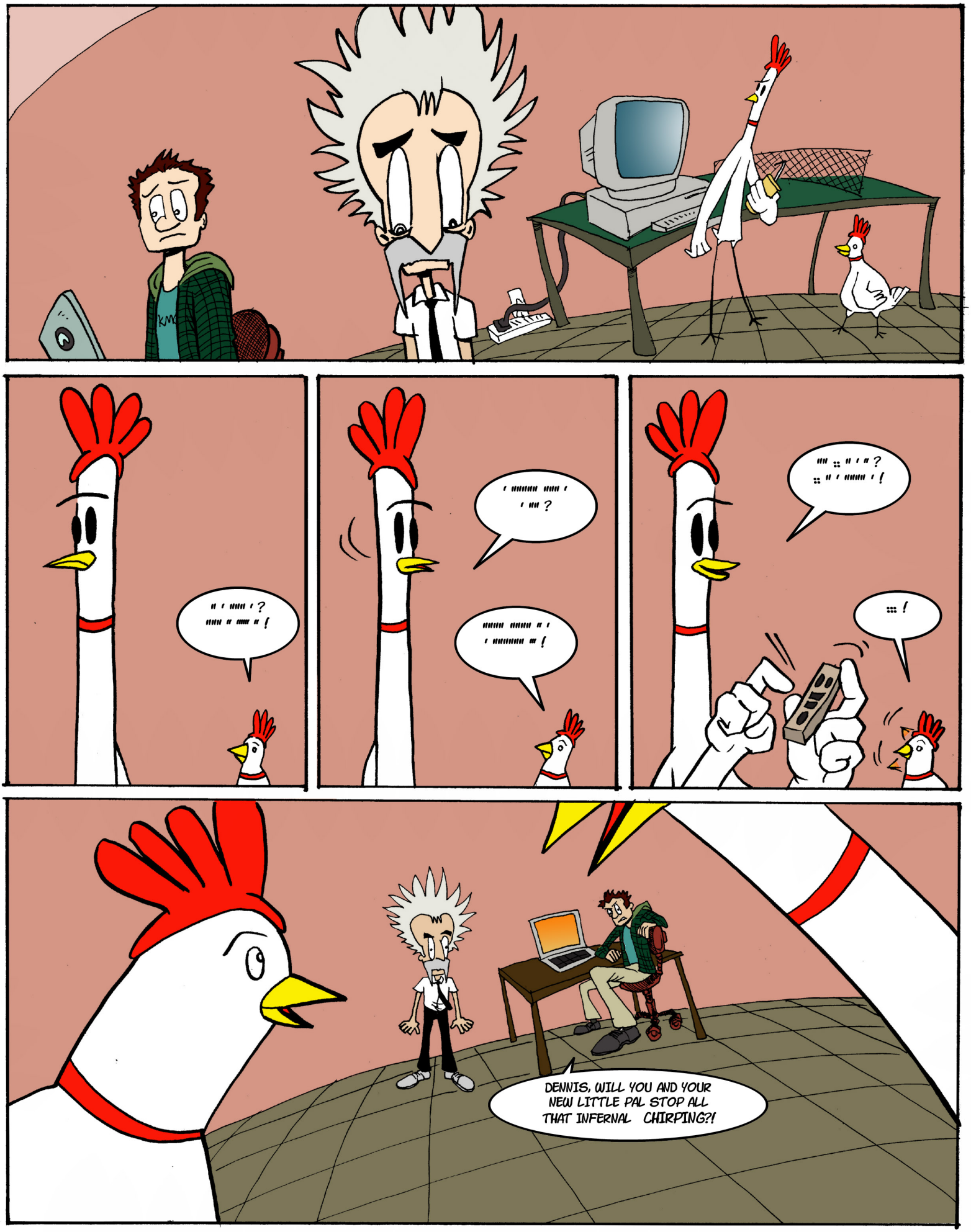
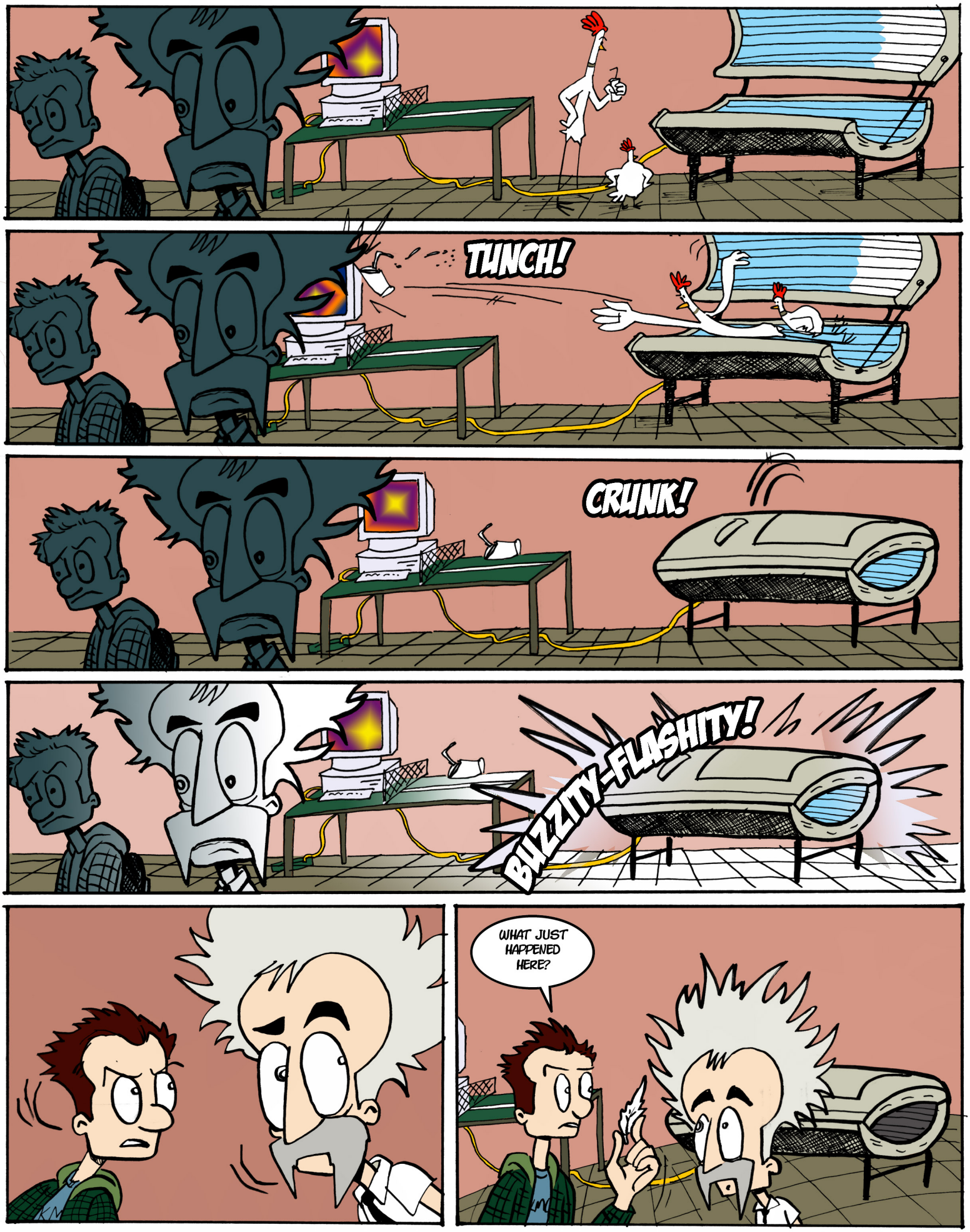
HERO ACTION PERSONS
#5
Shaddox
Ostley
Ru


GO AHEAD AND SEND THE WORMHOLE.
MAYBE THEY HAVEN'T DEFRAGGED THAT PART OF THE HARD DRIVE.
DONE AND DONE!
SOMETHING'S COMING THROUGH!
BA - GAH!
??
BA - GAH?


NO GOOD.
LOOKS LIKE WERE CONNECTED TO SOME RANDOM FARM.
ONE DOWN. MILLIONS TO GO.
I WAS A FOOL! I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN VIC THE BACK-UP TRACKING DEVICE!
SOME EVIL GENIUS I AM!
" " " "" ' ' "
" " ?
" ' "" """ " '
' "" !
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
I'M GOING IN.
THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
"" ' ' ' ' '
"" ! HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
THE HECK IT ISN'T! WE'VE GOT THE BACK-UP TRACKING DEVICE RIGHT HERE!
I GO IN, I FIND VIC, YOU OPEN THE WORMHOLE AND BOOM!
ROY, FARMBURG IS HUGE.
IT'S THE MOST POPULAR GAME ON FACEPAGE. IT HAS OVER 63 MILLION USERS. THAT'S 63 MILLION FARMS!
HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO FIND THE RIGHT ONE BEFORE YOU AND / OR VIC GET KILLED IN THERE?


DENNIS, WILL YOU AND YOUR NEW LITTLE PAL STOP ALL THAT INFERNAL CHIRPING?!


TUNCH!
CRUNK!
BUZZITY-FLASHITY!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE?

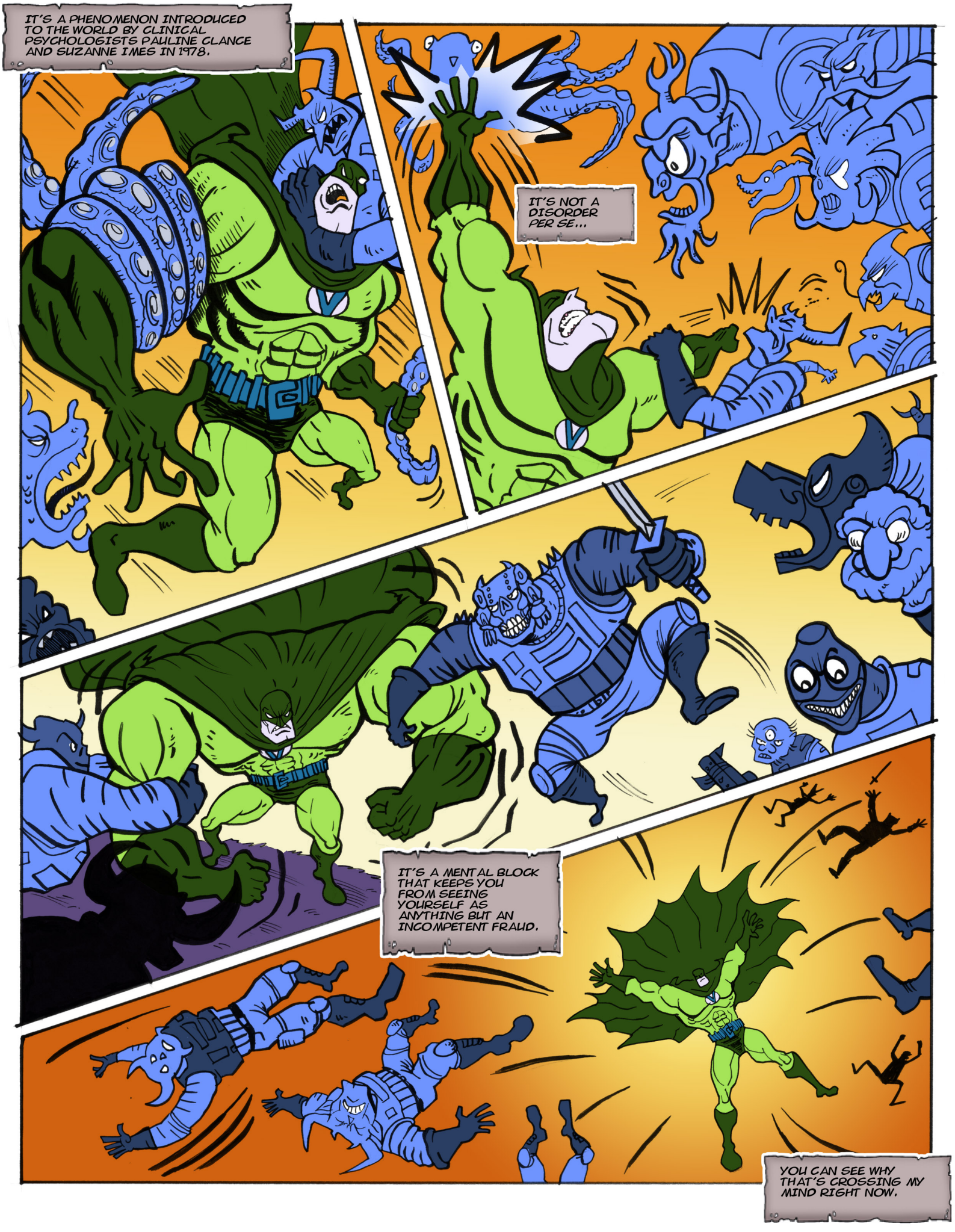
HERO ACTION PERSONS

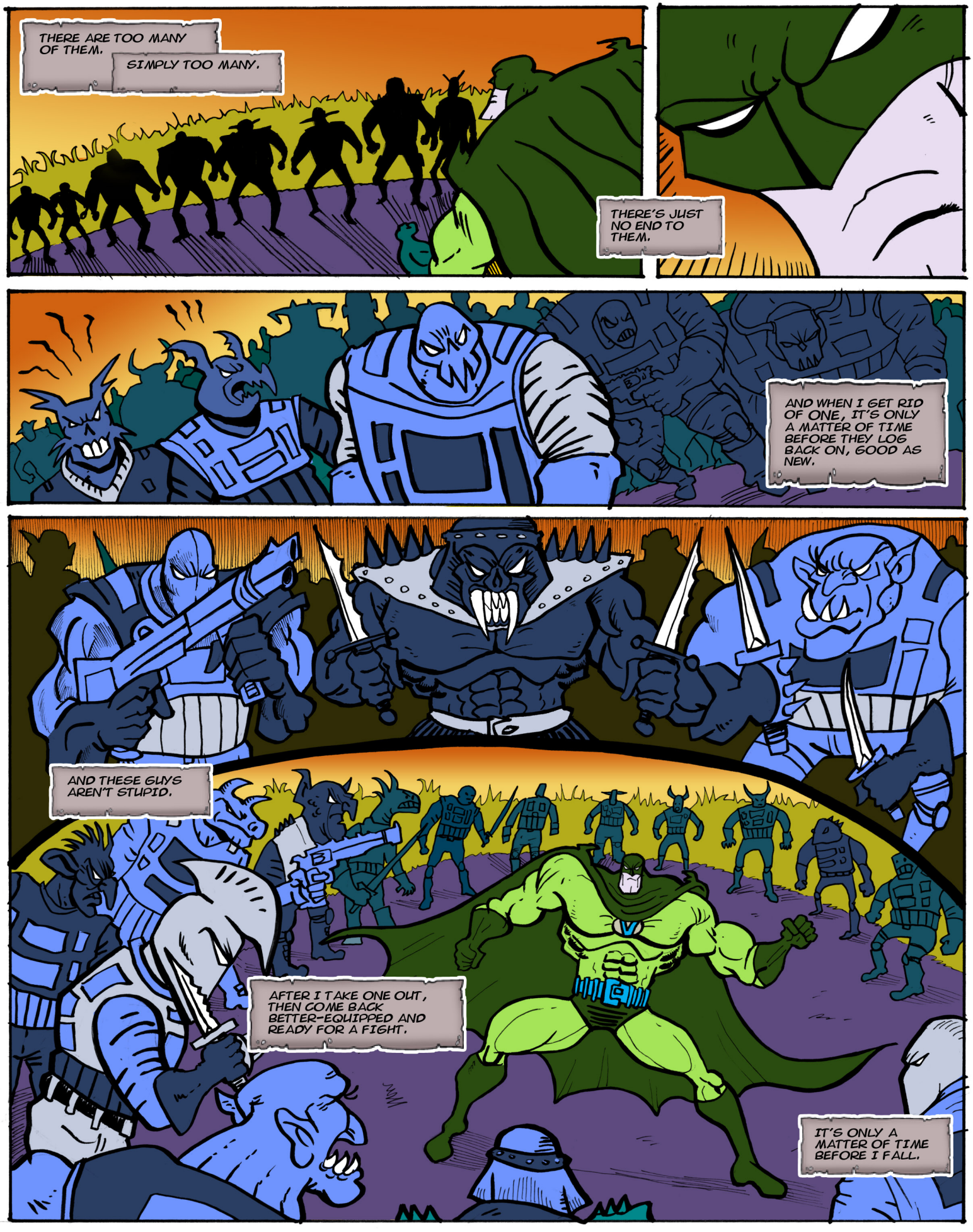
THE SOCIAL (NETWORKING SITE) WAR SAGA

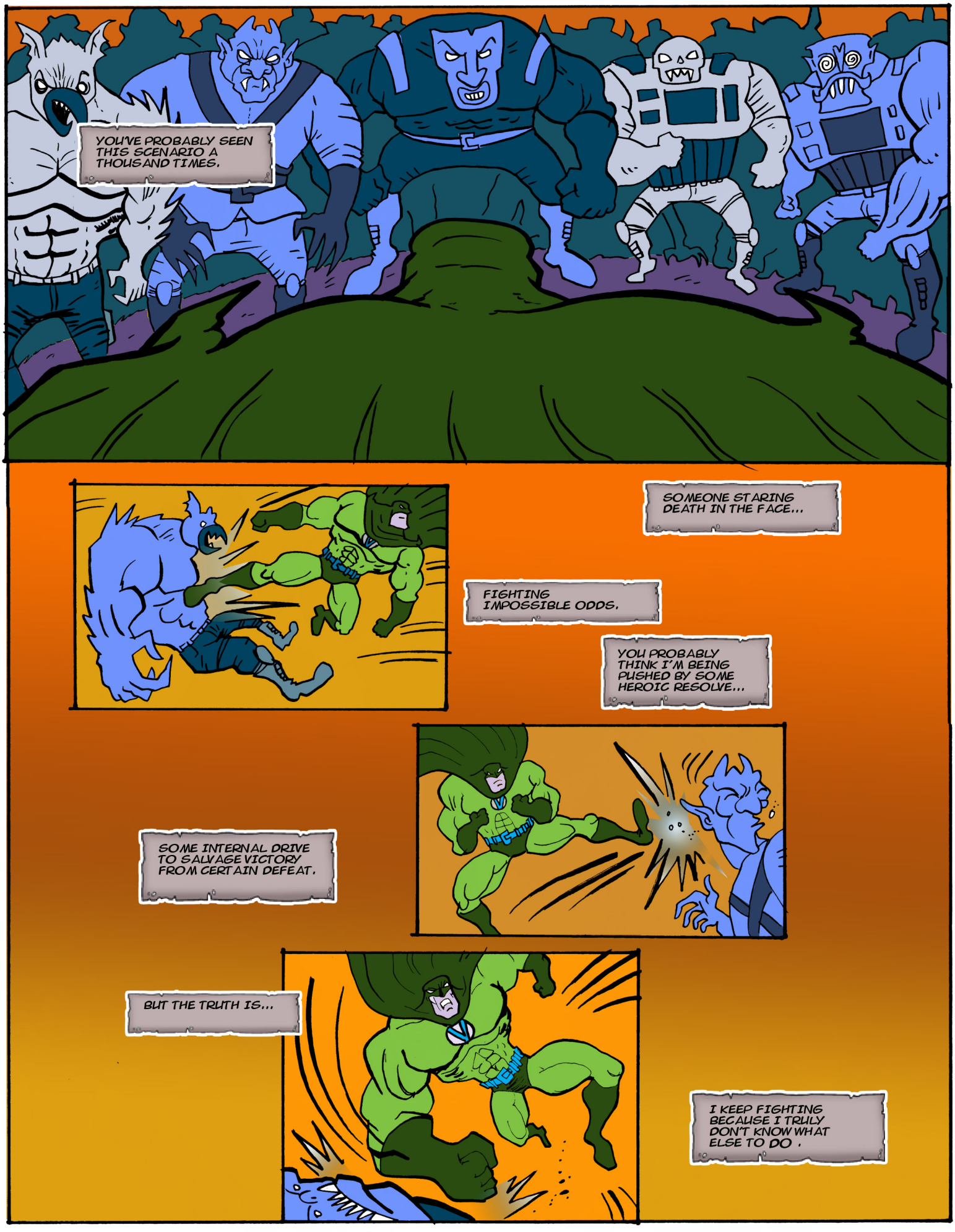
FINALE :

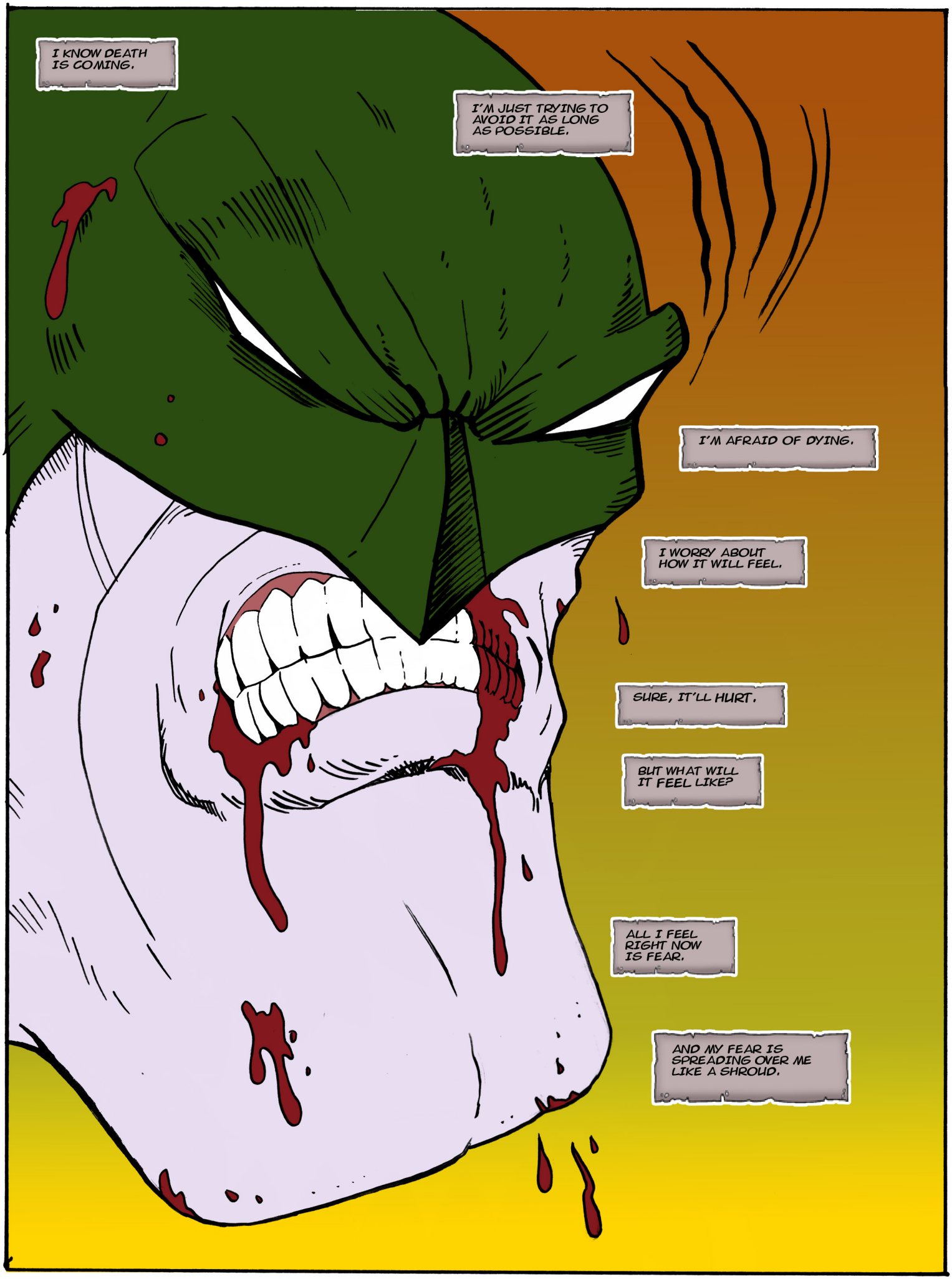
"THE COLD ABSENCE OF WARMTH"

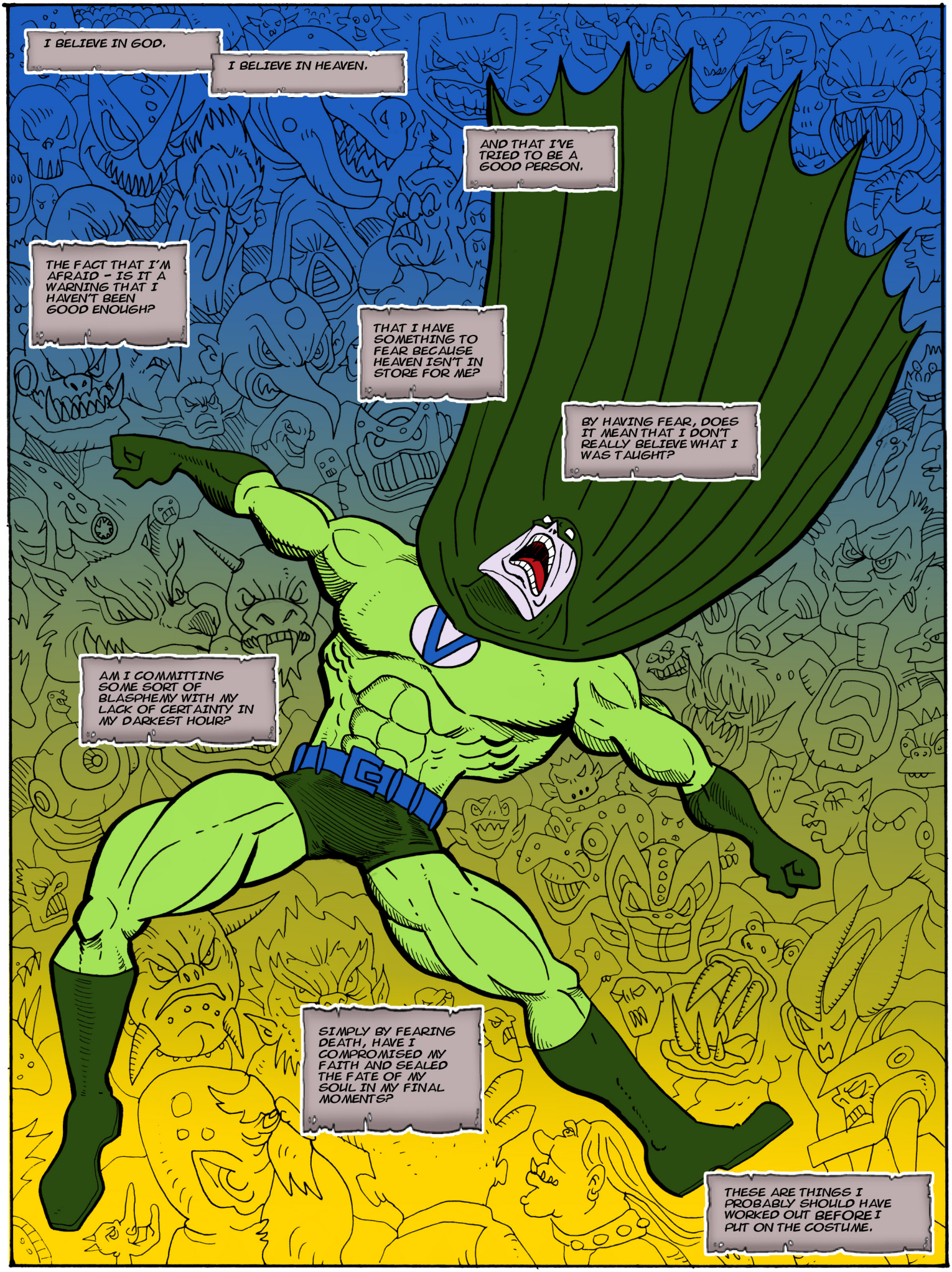
A.D. SHADDOX: SCRIPT/LETTERS GABE OSTLEY: PENCILS/INKS RU: COLORS/FX

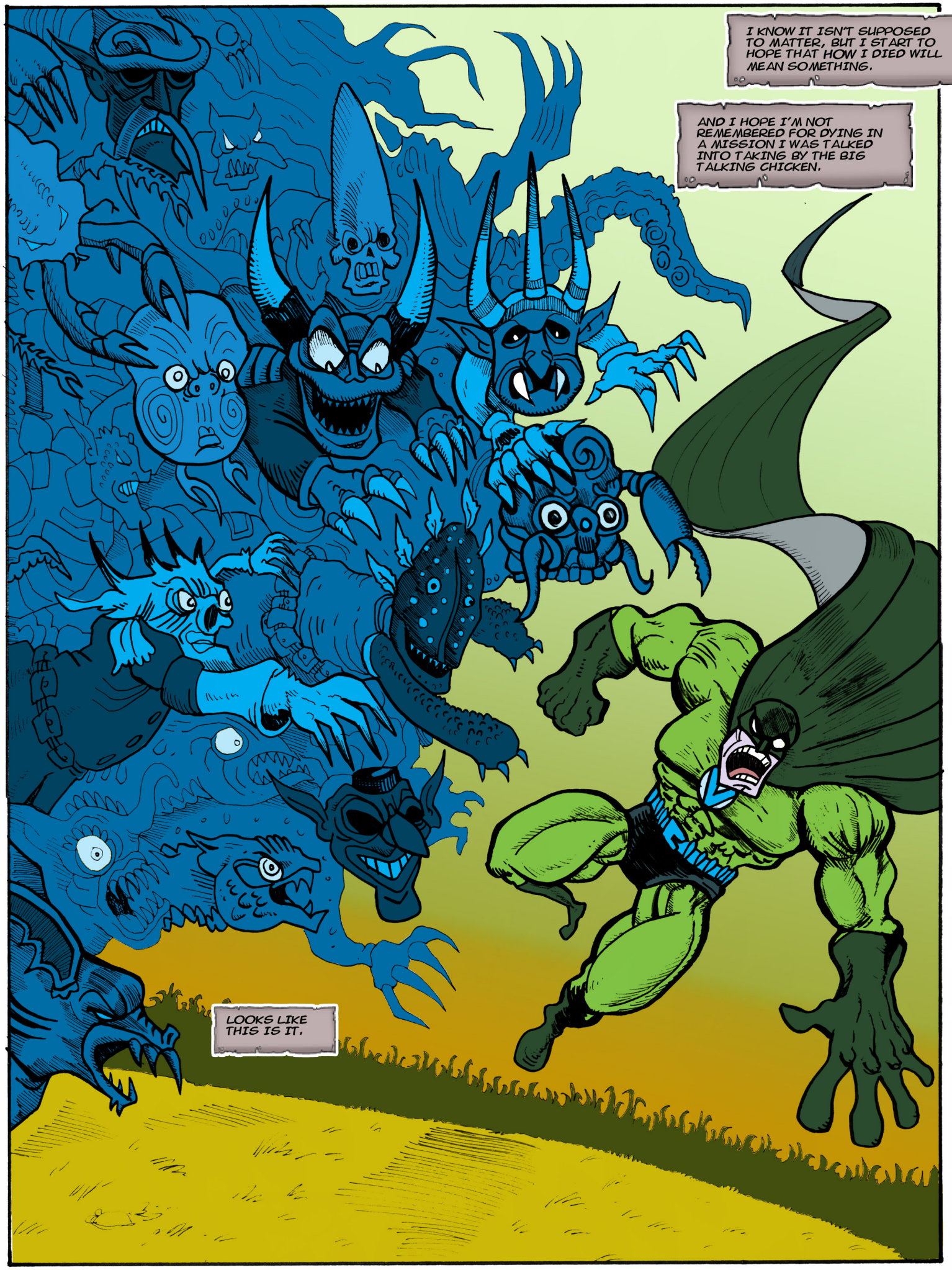

IT'S A PHENOMENON INTRODUCED TO THE WORLD BY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS PAULINE CLANCE AND SUZANNE IMES IN 1978.
IT'S NOT A DISORDER PER SE...
IT'S A MENTAL BLOCK THAT KEEPS YOU FROM SEEING YOURSELF AS ANYTHING BUT AN INCOMPETENT FRAUD.
YOU CAN SEE WHY THAT'S CROSSING MY MIND RIGHT NOW.


THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM.
SIMPLY TOO MANY.
THERE'S JUST NO END TO THEM.
AND WHEN I GET RID OF ONE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY LOG BACK ON, GOOD AS NEW.
AND THESE GUYS AREN'T STUPID.
AFTER I TAKE ONE OUT, THEN COME BACK BETTER-EQUIPPED AND READY FOR A FIGHT.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I FALL.

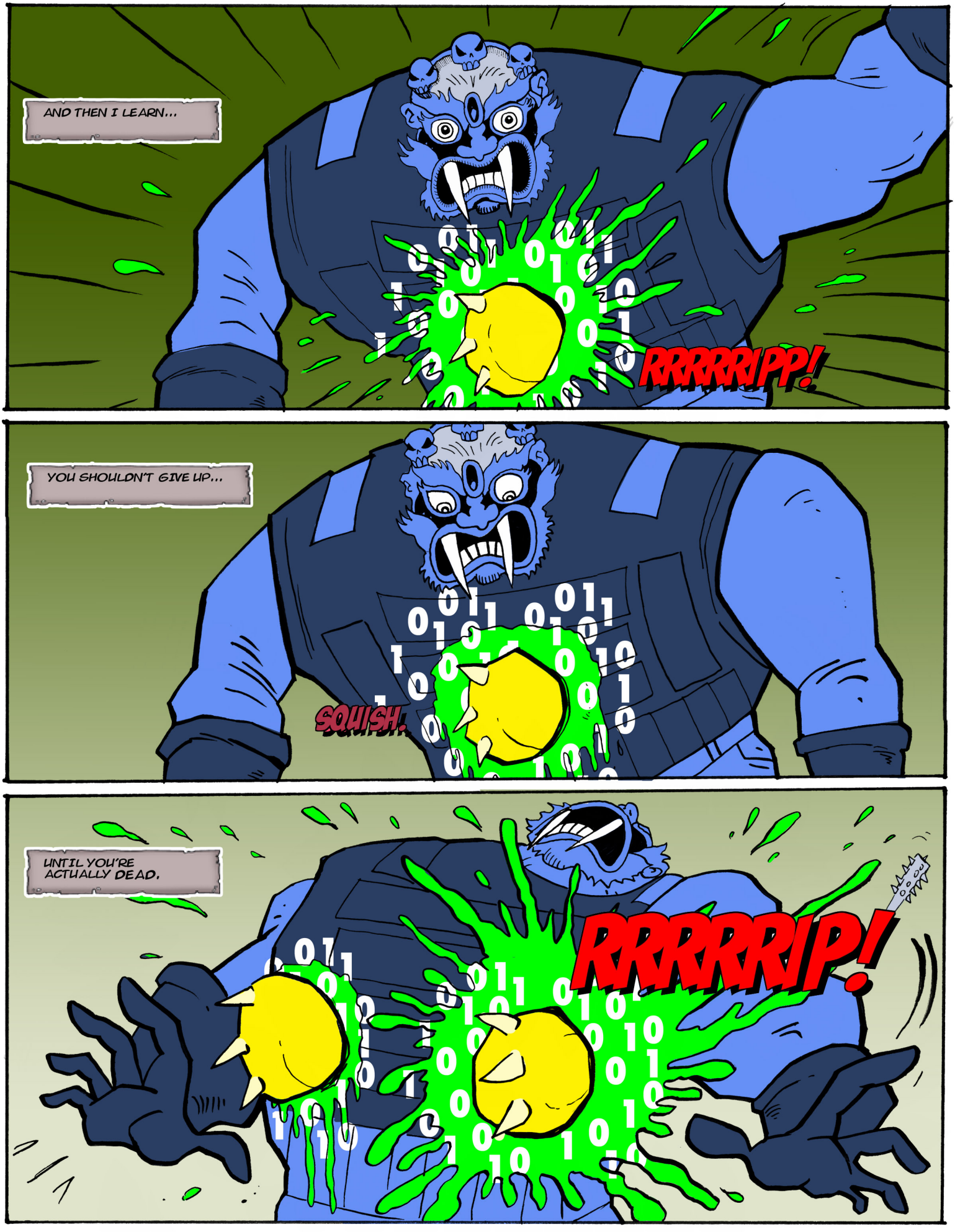

YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN THIS SCENARIO A THOUSAND TIMES.
SOMEONE STARING DEATH IN THE FACE...
FIGHTING IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.
YOU PROBABLY THINK I'M BEING PUSHED BY SOME HEROIC RESOLVE...
SOME INTERNAL DRIVE TO SALVAGE VICTORY FROM CERTAIN DEFEAT.
BUT THE TRUTH IS...
I KEEP FIGHTING BECAUSE I TRULY DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO .

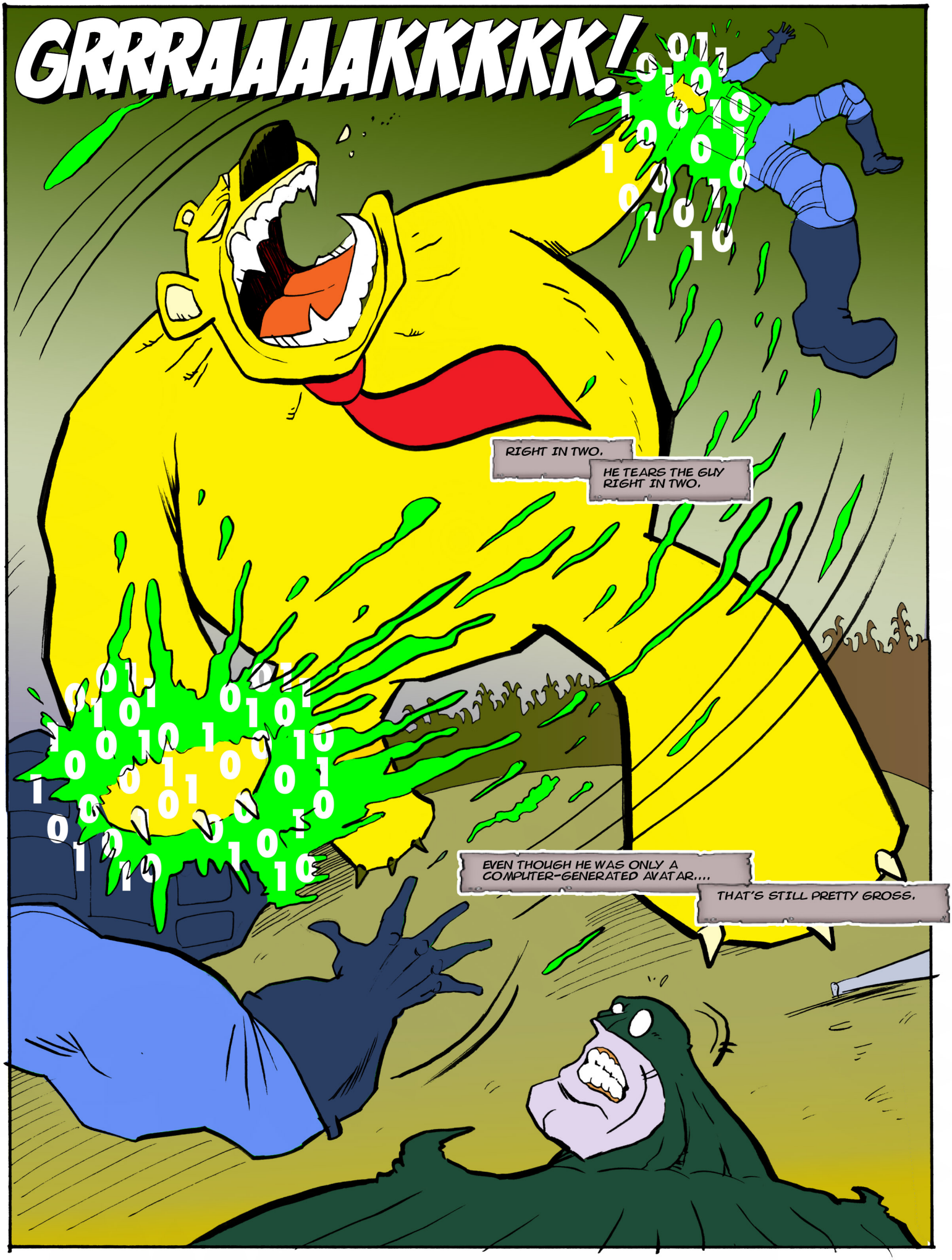

I KNOW DEATH IS COMING.
I'M JUST TRYING TO AVOID IT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
I'M AFRAID OF DYING.
I WORRY ABOUT HOW IT WILL FEEL.
SURE, IT'LL HURT.
BUT WHAT WILL IT FEEL LIKE?
ALL I FEEL RIGHT NOW IS FEAR.
AND MY FEAR IS SPREADING OVER ME LIKE A SHROUD.

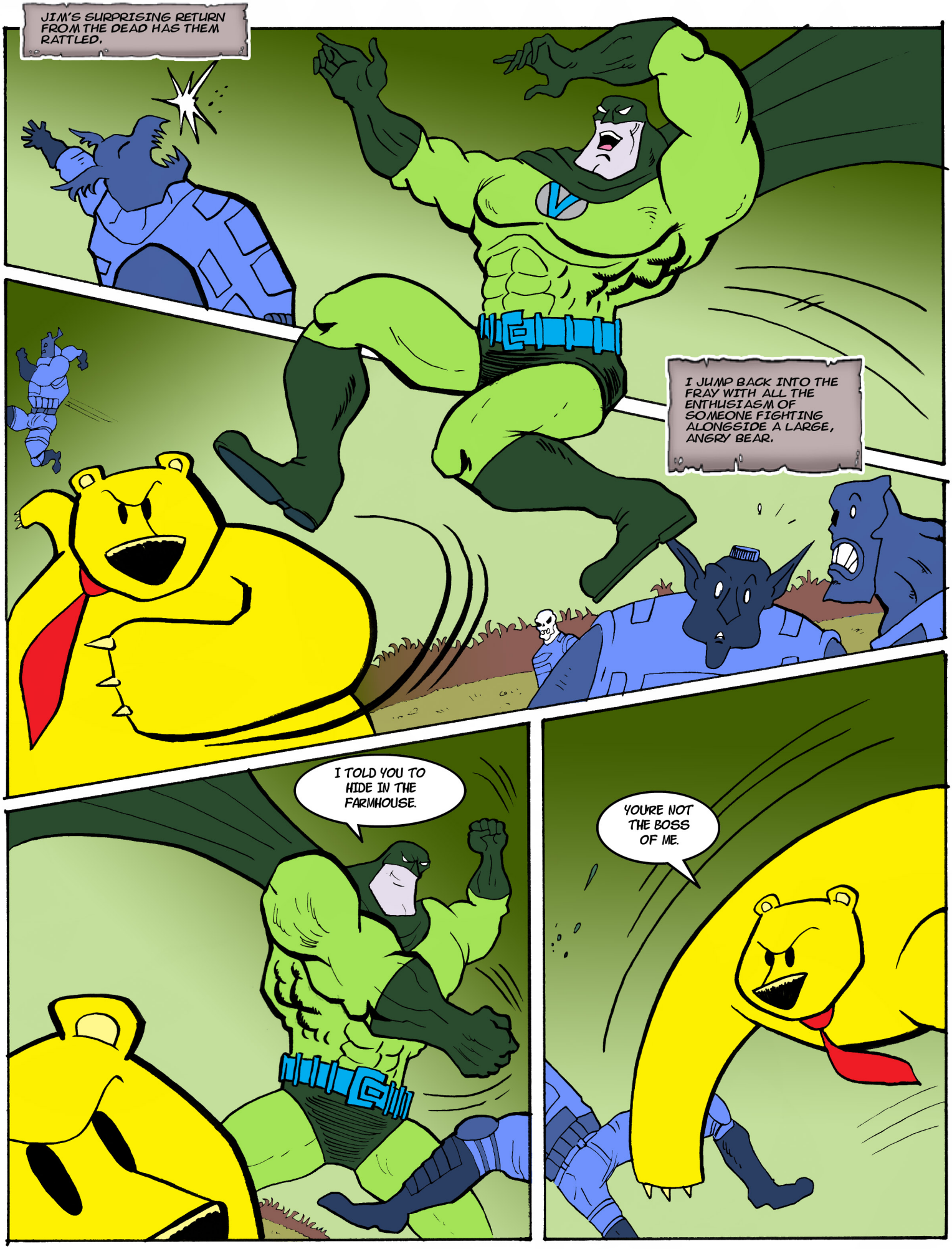

I BELIEVE IN GOD.
I BELIEVE IN HEAVEN.
AND THAT I'VE TRIED TO BE A GOOD PERSON.
THE FACT THAT I'M AFRAID - IS IT A WARNING THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN GOOD ENOUGH?
THAT I HAVE SOMETHING TO FEAR BECAUSE HEAVEN ISN'T IN STORE FOR ME?
BY HAVING FEAR, DOES IT MEAN THAT I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE WHAT I WAS TAUGHT?
AM I COMMITTING SOME SORT OF BLASPHEMY WITH MY LACK OF CERTAINTY IN MY DARKEST HOUR?
SIMPLY BY FEARING DEATH, HAVE I COMPROMISED MY FAITH AND SEALED THE FATE OF MY SOUL IN MY FINAL MOMENTS?
THESE ARE THINGS I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE WORKED OUT BEFORE I PUT ON THE COSTUME.


I KNOW IT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO MATTER, BUT I START TO HOPE THAT HOW I DIED WILL MEAN SOMETHING.
AND I HOPE I'M NOT REMEMBERED FOR DYING IN A MISSION I WAS TALKED INTO TAKING BY THE BIG TALKING CHICKEN.
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT.

I FEEL A LITTLE SAD...
AND STRANGELY CALM.
I'M NOT THE FIRST GUY TO DIE TRYING TO DO MORE THAN HE WAS EVER MEANT TO DO.
I GUESS THAT'S BETTER THAN NOT TRYING AT ALL.


AND THEN I LEARN...
RRRRRRIPP!
YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE UP...
SQUISH.
UNTIL YOU'RE ACTUALLY DEAD.
RRRRRRIP!

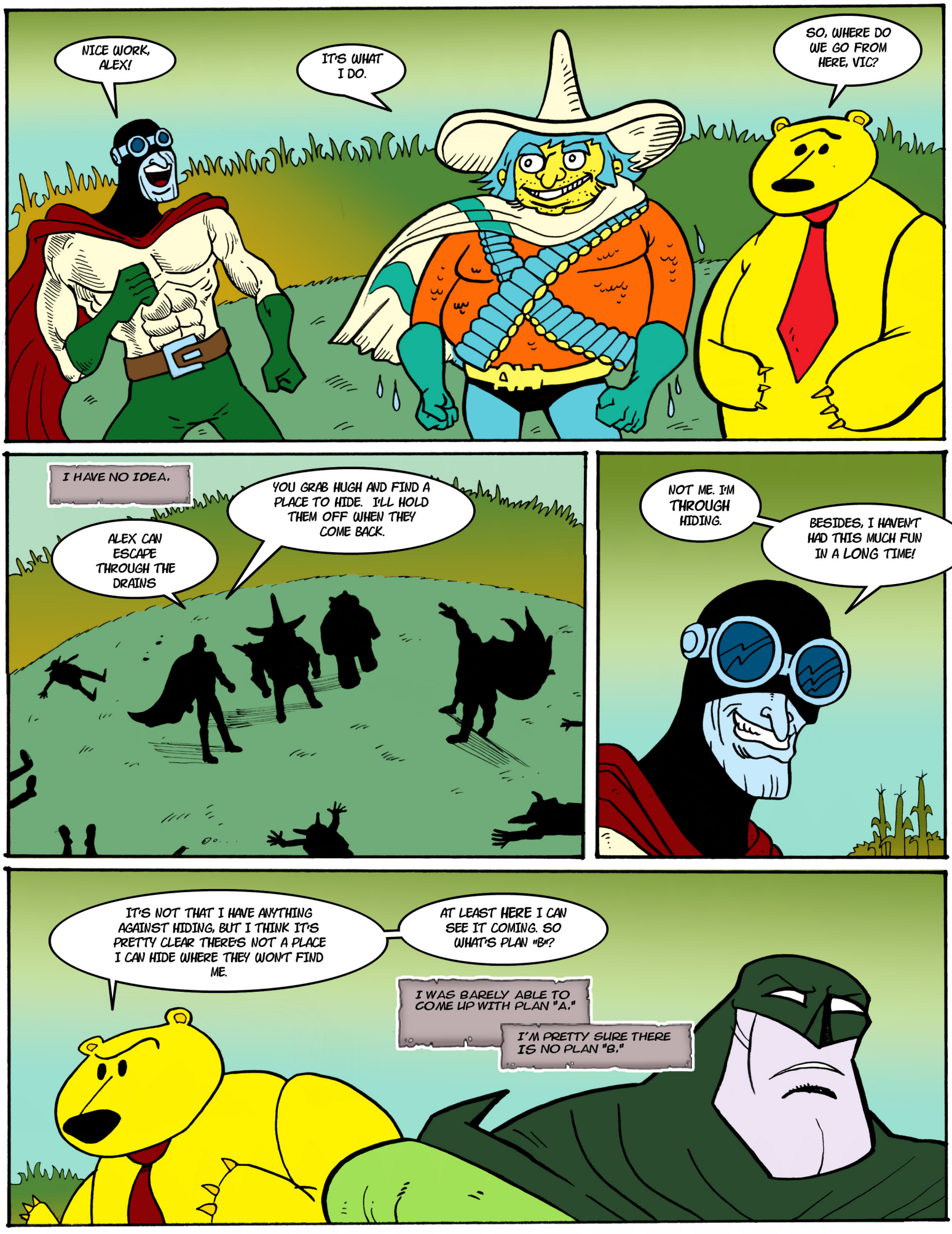

GRRRAAAAAKKKKK!
RIGHT IN TWO.
HE TEARS THE GUY RIGHT IN TWO.
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ONLY A COMPUTER-GENERATED AVATAR....
THAT'S STILL PRETTY GROSS.

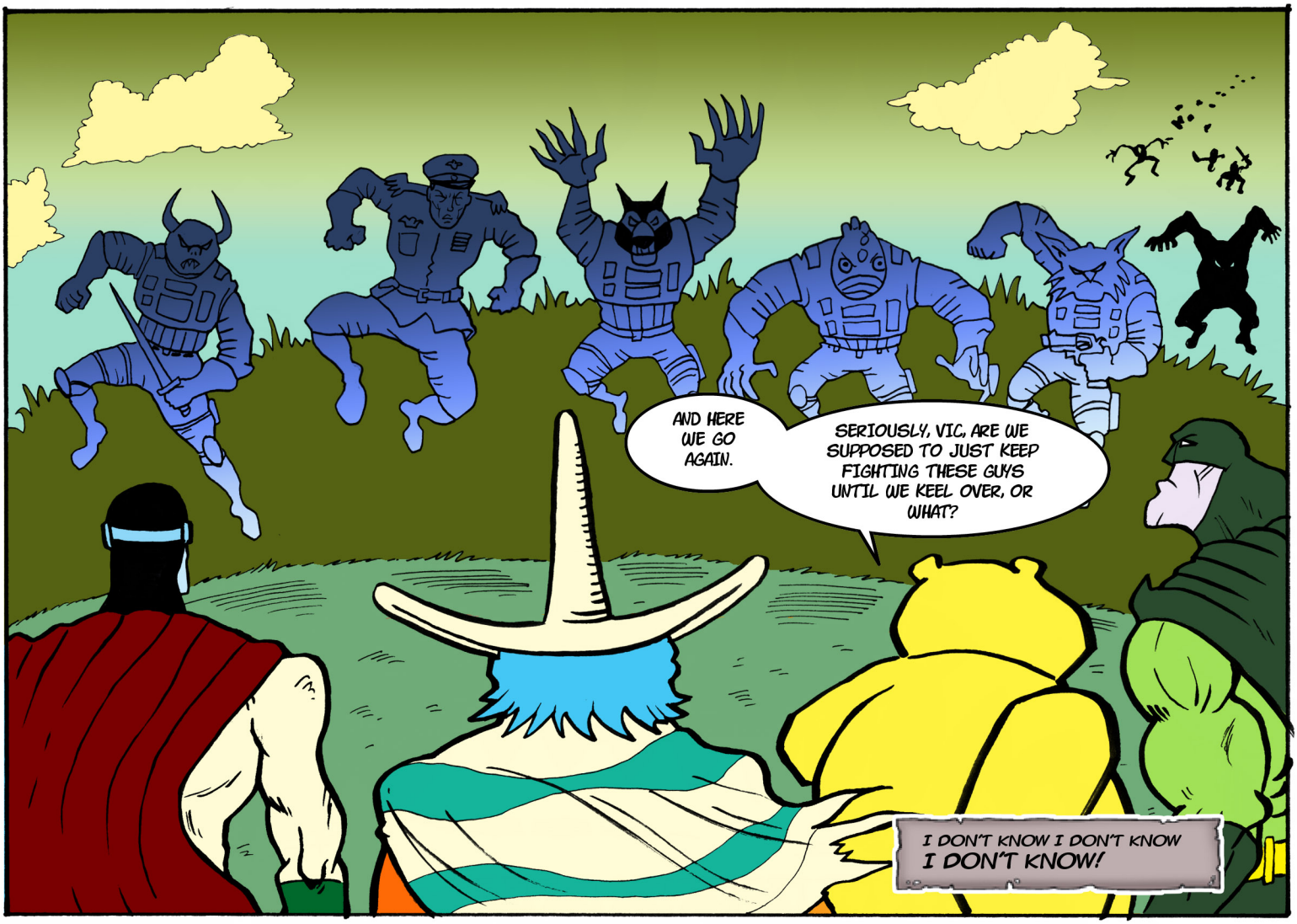

JIM'S SURPRISING RETURN FROM THE DEAD HAS THEM RATTLED.
I JUMP BACK INTO THE FRAY WITH ALL THE ENTHUSIASM OF SOMEONE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE A LARGE, ANGRY BEAR.
I TOLD YOU TO HIDE IN THE FARMHOUSE.
YOURE NOT THE BOSS OF ME.

WHAT ABOUT AQUA-HOMBRE AND HUGH? DID THEY MAKE IT?
HE FIGURED WE WERE SITTING DUCKS IN THE HOUSE, SO WE JUST RAN OUT THE BACK WAY AS QUICKLY AS WE WENT IN.
YA DANG FOOL! I WAS SMACKING AROUND REAL SOLDIERS BEFORE YOU WERE AN ITCH IN YOUR FATHER'S PANTS!
FEAR THE WRATH OF NIGHTRO!

NICE. AND ALEX?
HE TURNED HIS BODY TO WATER AND DOVE RIGHT DOWN THE KITCHEN SINK DRAIN.
THESE JERKS BLEW UP AN EMPTY HOUSE.
REALLY? I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY WATER IN THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM HE COULD USE TO...
RRRRRRUUUUUUMMMMBLY!
HEH!

THAT WOULD BE THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM I USE TO IRRIGATE MY CROPS
THIS IS A FARM, YOU KNOW.
KA-ZAMMY!
BLEEP!
BLOOP!
BLIP!
BLORP!
ALEX USES THE WATER PRESSURE TO SHOOT EVERY SPRINKLER HEAD RIGHT INTO AN ENEMY LIKE A MINIATURE MISSILE.
PART OF ME WONDERS IF I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO USE MY POWERS THAT WELL.


NICE WORK, ALEX!
IT'S WHAT I DO.
SO, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE, VIC?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
YOU GRAB HUGH AND FIND A PLACE TO HIDE. I'LL HOLD THEM OFF WHEN THEY COME BACK.
ALEX CAN ESCAPE THROUGH THE DRAINS
NOT ME. I'M THROUGH HIDING.
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN A LONG TIME!
IT'S NOT THAT I HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST HIDING, BUT I THINK IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THERE'S NOT A PLACE I CAN HIDE WHERE THEY WON'T FIND ME.
AT LEAST HERE I CAN SEE IT COMING. SO WHAT'S PLAN "B"?
I WAS BARELY ABLE TO COME UP WITH PLAN "A."
I'M PRETTY SURE THERE IS NO PLAN "B."

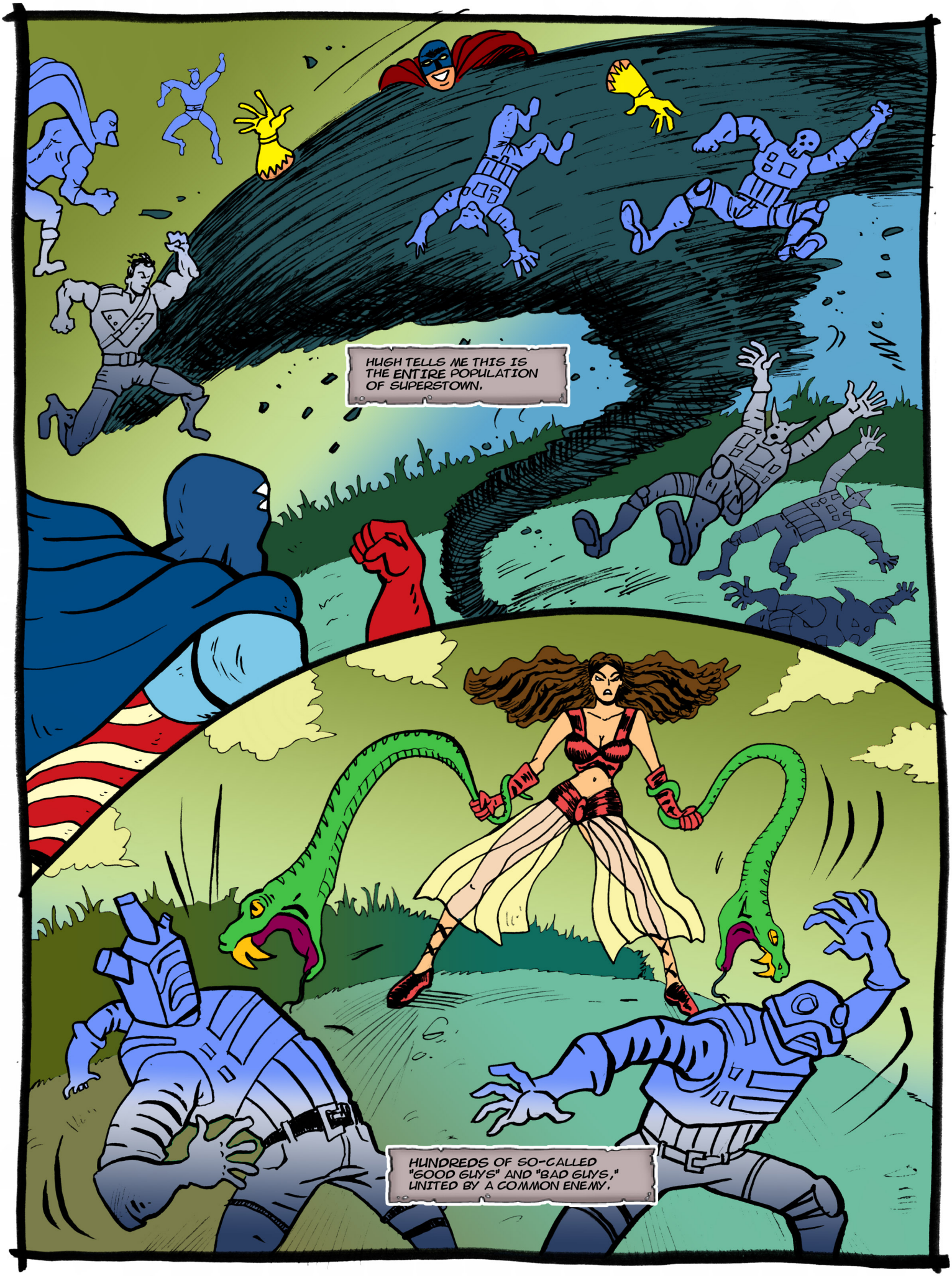

AND HERE WE GO AGAIN.
SERIOUSLY, VIC, ARE WE SUPPOSED TO JUST KEEP FIGHTING THESE GUYS UNTIL WE KEEL OVER, OR WHAT?
I DON'T KNOW I DON'T KNOW I DON'T KNOW!

I...
WAITASEC...
HOLD UP, GUYS!
I HEAR SOMETHING.

HUGH, WHERE'S THE DOG?
I HEAR BARKING.
HEH...
GOOD BOY, BLACKIE.

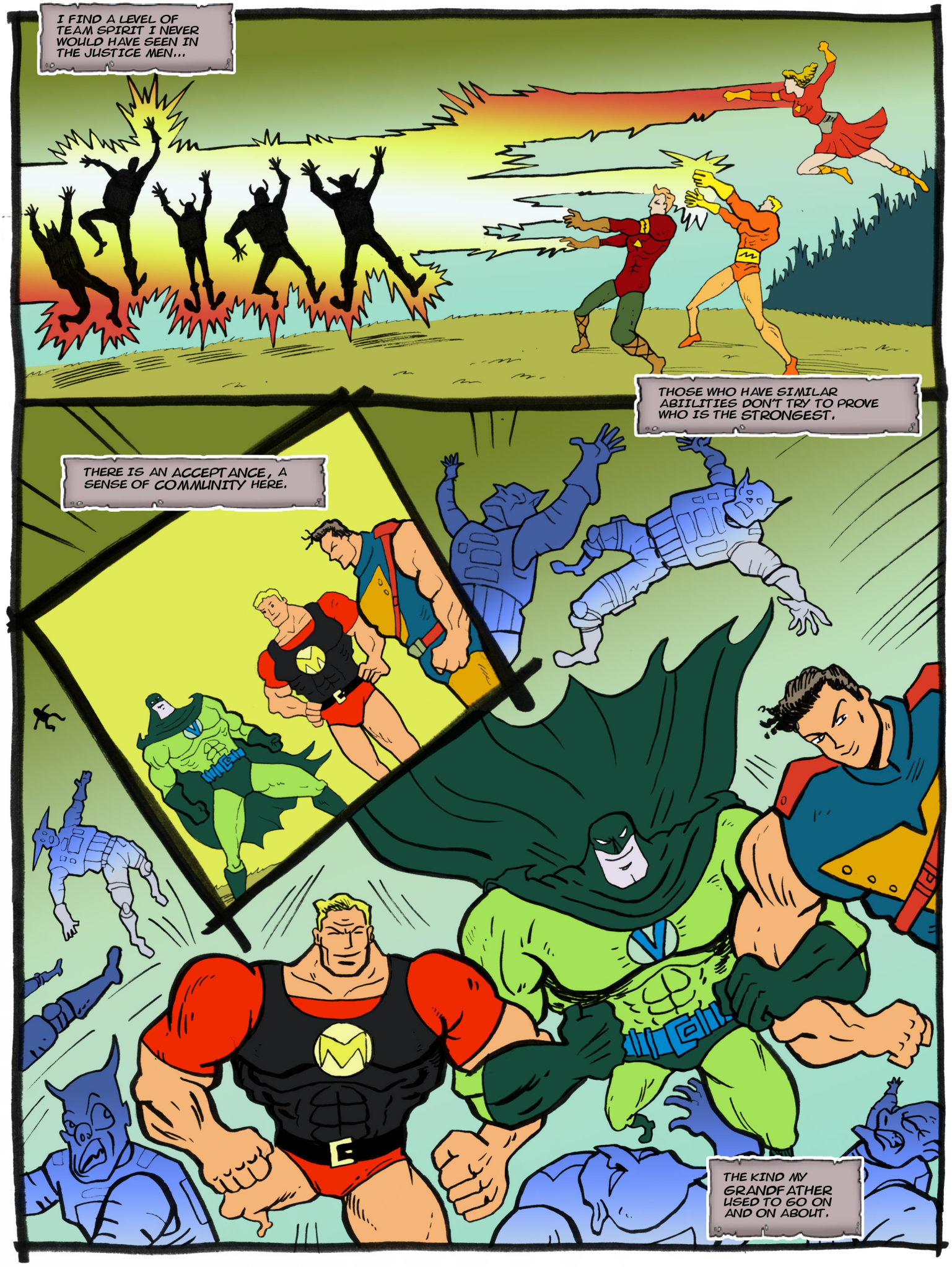
KA-
BONKITY!!
??
?
?
?
!!
!!
!?

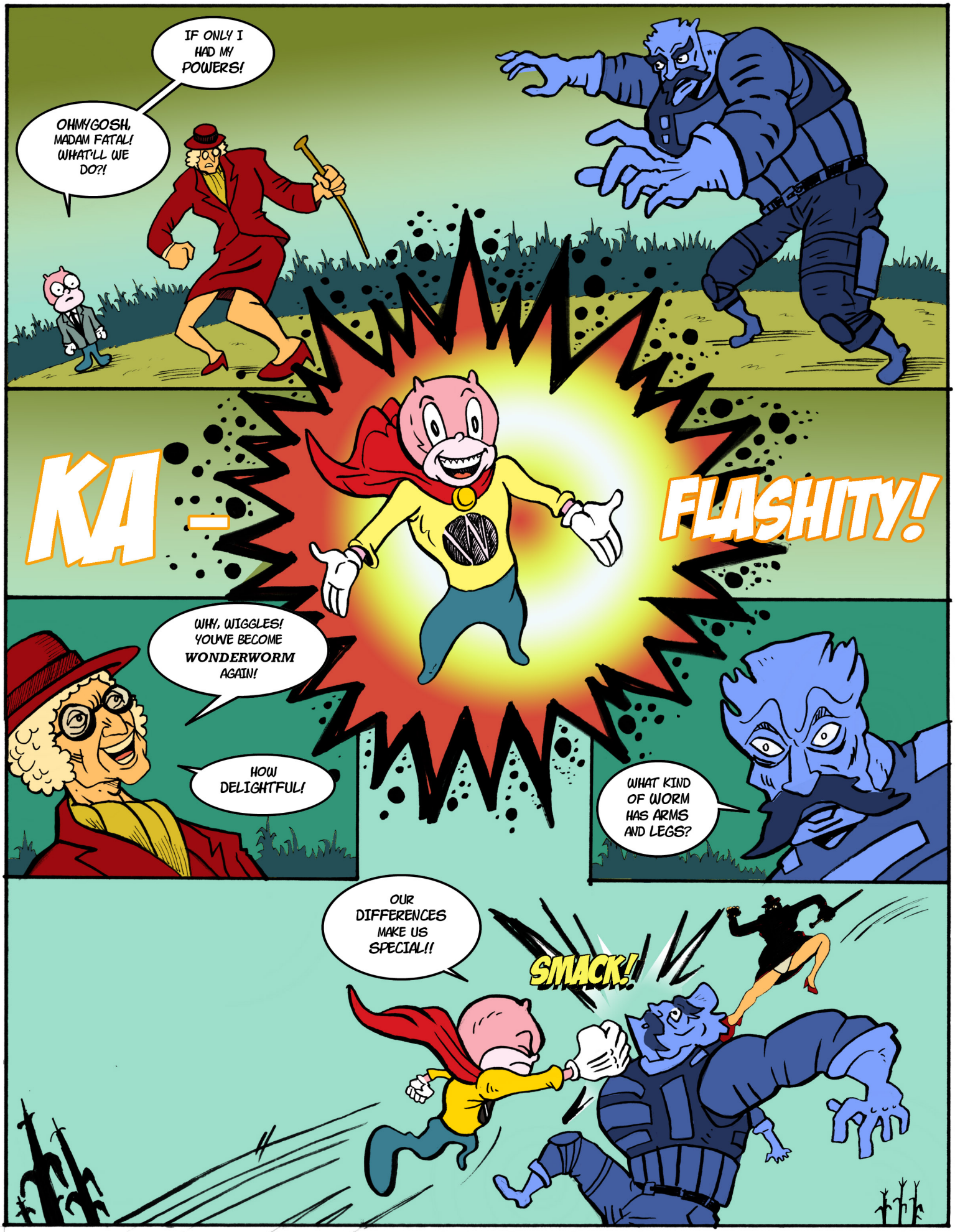
EVEN WITHOUT ANALYZING HIS BARKS WITH THE AUDIO RECEPTORS IN MY MASK, I KNEW BLACKIE WOULD NEVER LEAVE HUGH UNLESS THERE WAS TROUBLE!
WE'VE BEEN PUTTING UP WITH YOU RUFFIANS FOR A LONG TIME.
YOU'LL BE GOING HOME NOW.

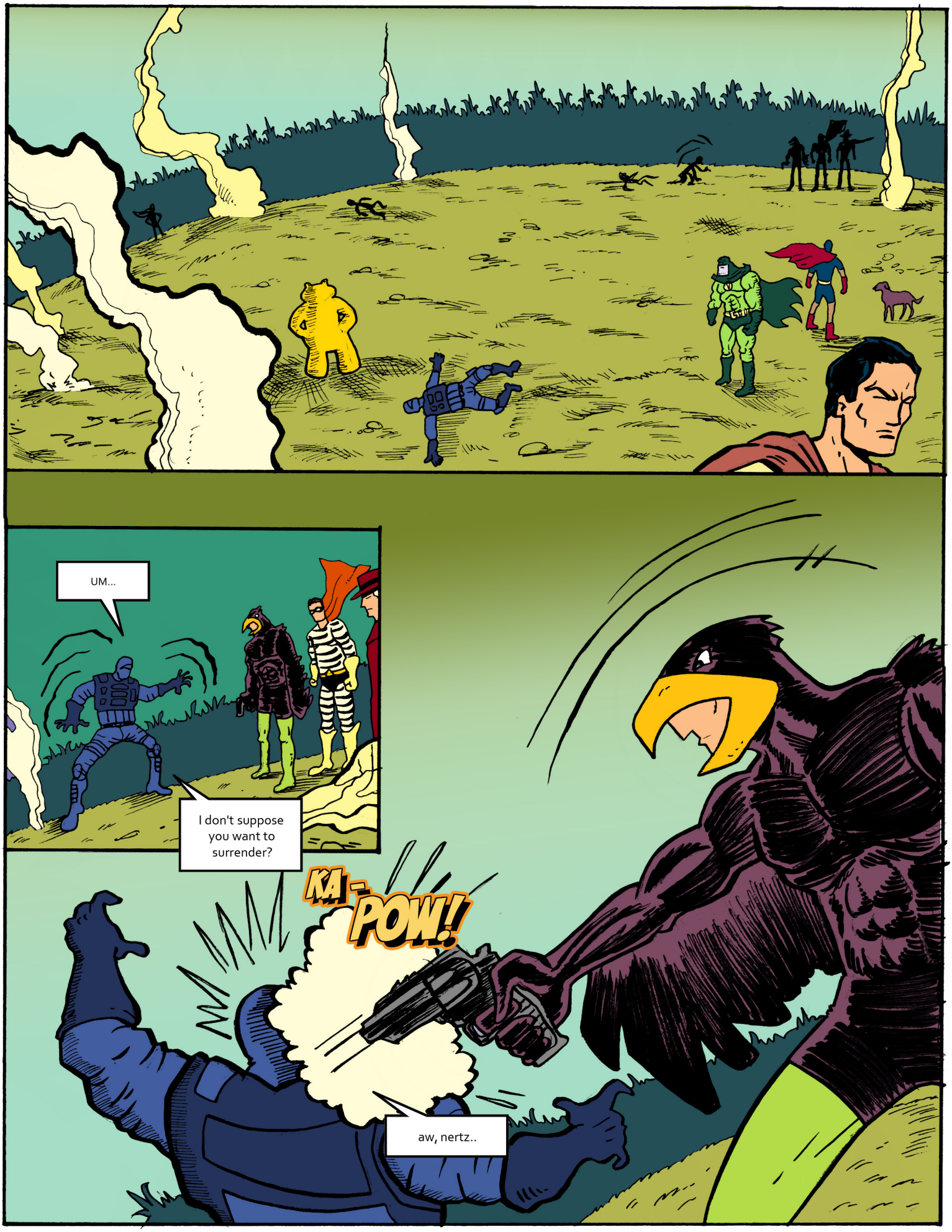

HUGH TELLS ME THIS IS THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF SUPERSTOWN.
HUNDREDS OF SO-CALLED "GOOD GUYS" AND "BAD GUYS," UNITED BY A COMMON ENEMY.

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.
I'M SO AFRAID!
geez, byron, she's just a virus. take her OUT, ya putz!
sorry, Dan. she was hot. it threw me off.
u desper8ly need a woman, byron.
but she IS hot. i'll give u that!
YOU THINK THAT WAS SOMETHING?

I'M EVEN MORE REMARKABLE...
WHEN YOU SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!
KISS ME, BOYS!
THERE'S PLENTY TO GO AROUND!
WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER, I'M TAKING THAT LADY FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN...

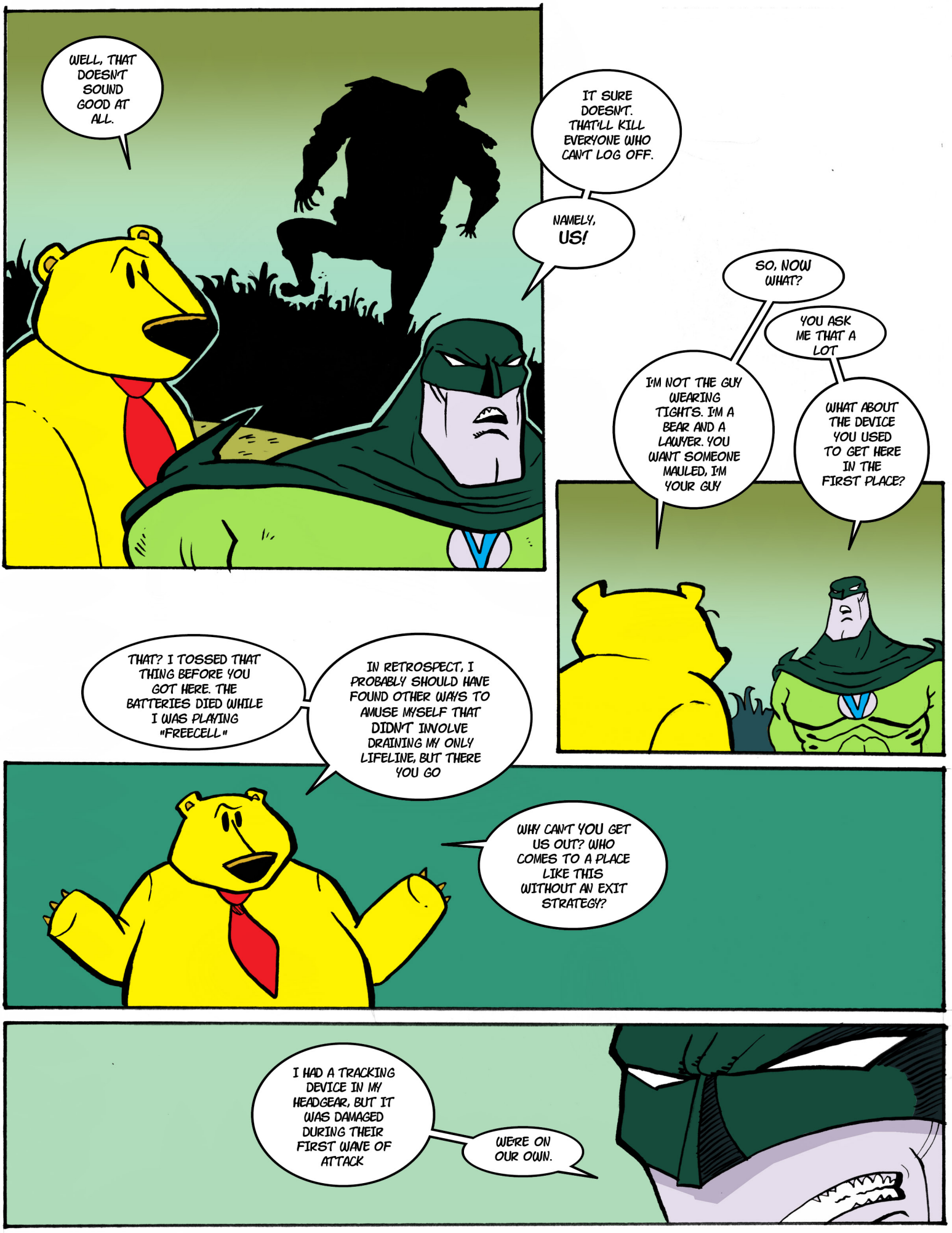

I FIND A LEVEL OF TEAM SPIRIT I NEVER WOULD HAVE SEEN IN THE JUSTICE MEN...
THOSE WHO HAVE SIMILAR ABIILITIES DON'T TRY TO PROVE WHO IS THE STRONGEST.
THERE IS AN ACCEPTANCE, A SENSE OF COMMUNITY HERE.
THE KIND MY GRANDFATHER USED TO GO ON AND ON ABOUT.


IF ONLY I HAD MY POWERS!
OHMYGOSH, MADAM FATAL! WHAT'LL WE DO?!
KA-
FLASHITY!
WHY, WIGGLES! YOUVE BECOME WONDERWORM AGAIN!
HOW DELIGHTFUL!
WHAT KIND OF WORM HAS ARMS AND LEGS?
OUR DIFFERENCES MAKE US SPECIAL!!
SMACK!

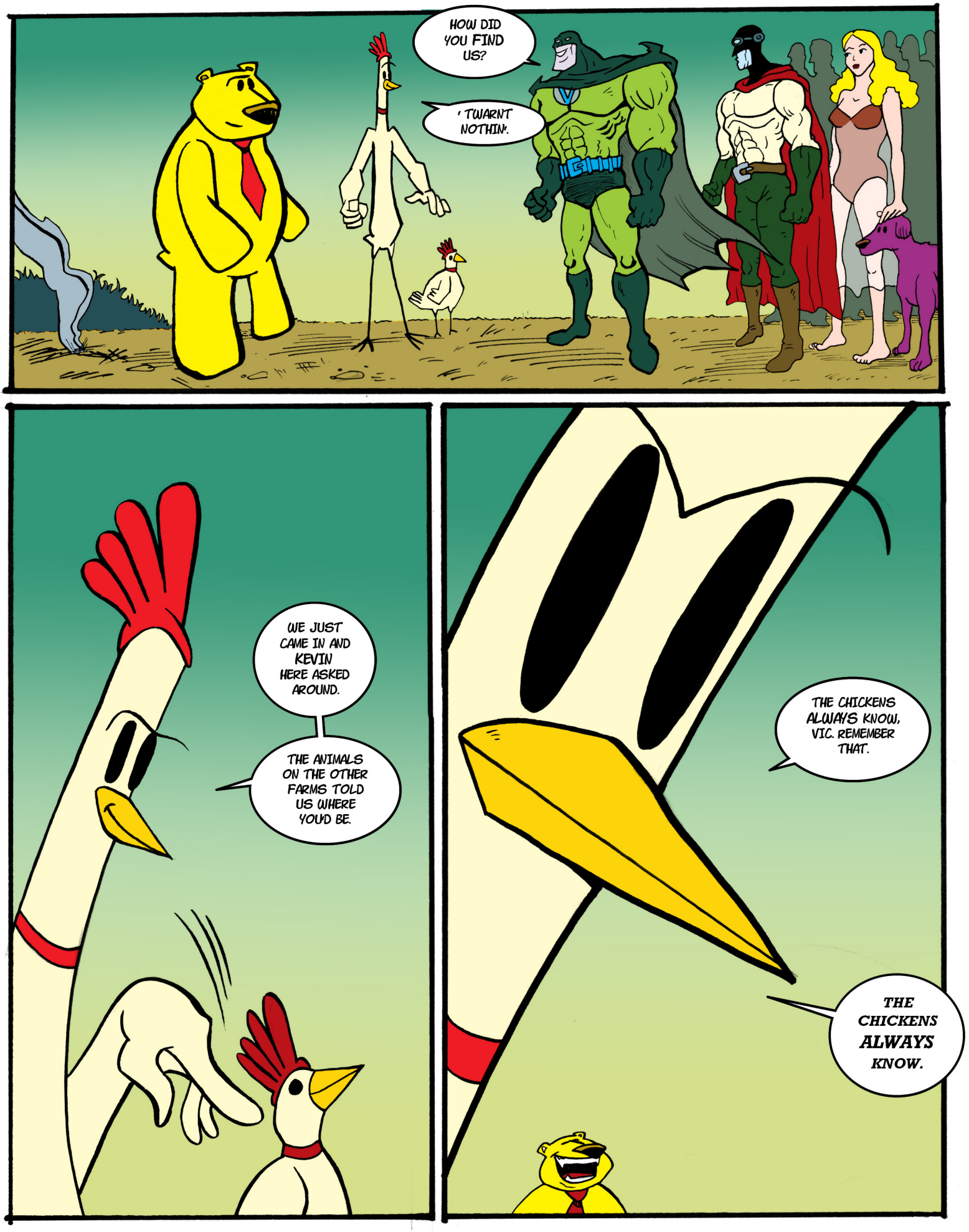

UM...
I don't suppose you want to surrender?
KA-POW!
aw, nertz..

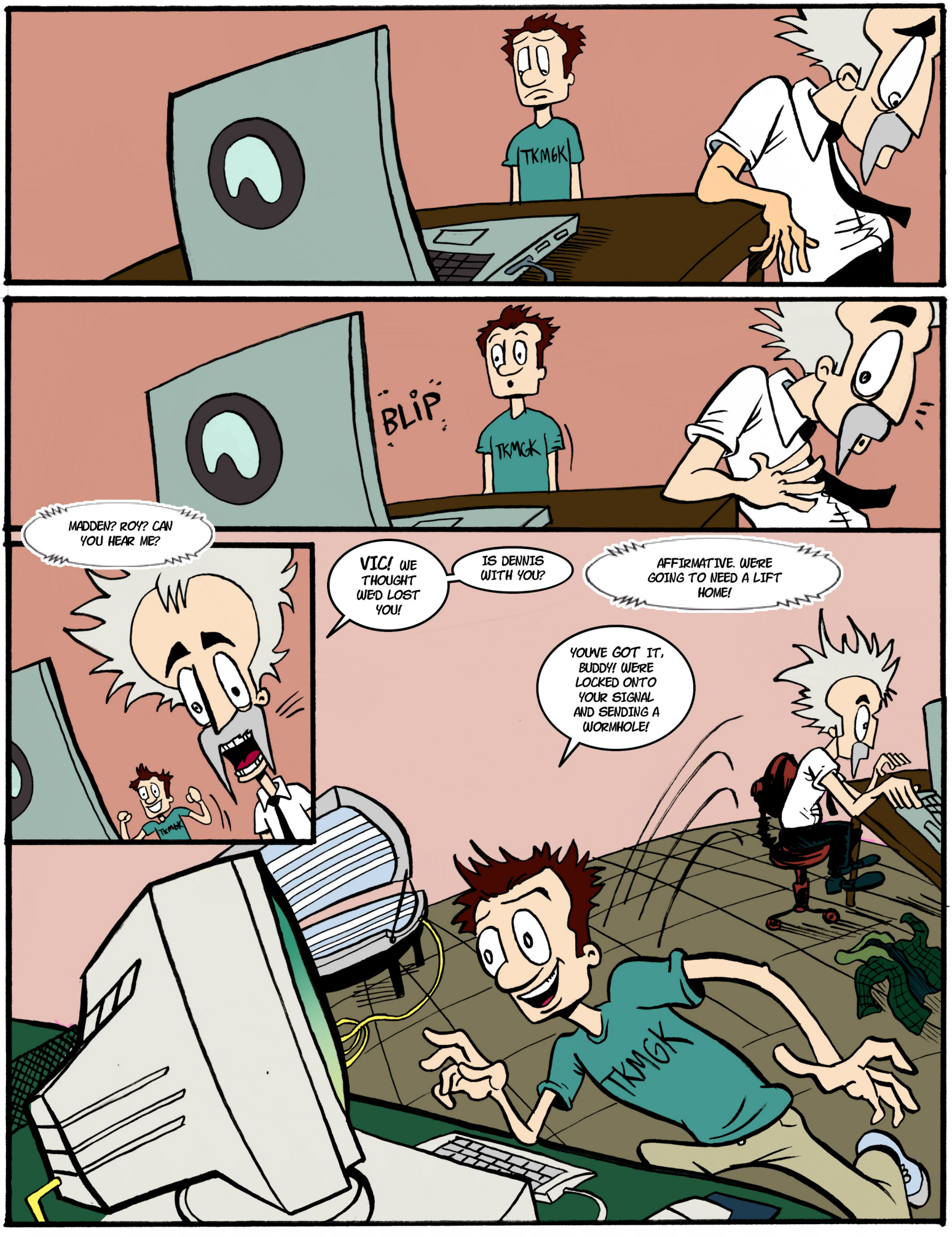
MAN, THAT WAS FUN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S OVER.
I DON'T THINK WE'RE FINISHED
HEY, ISN'T THIS THEIR BOSS?
YOU KNOW, THE FIRST GUY DEEDEBIL CLONKED WITH A BOOMERANG?

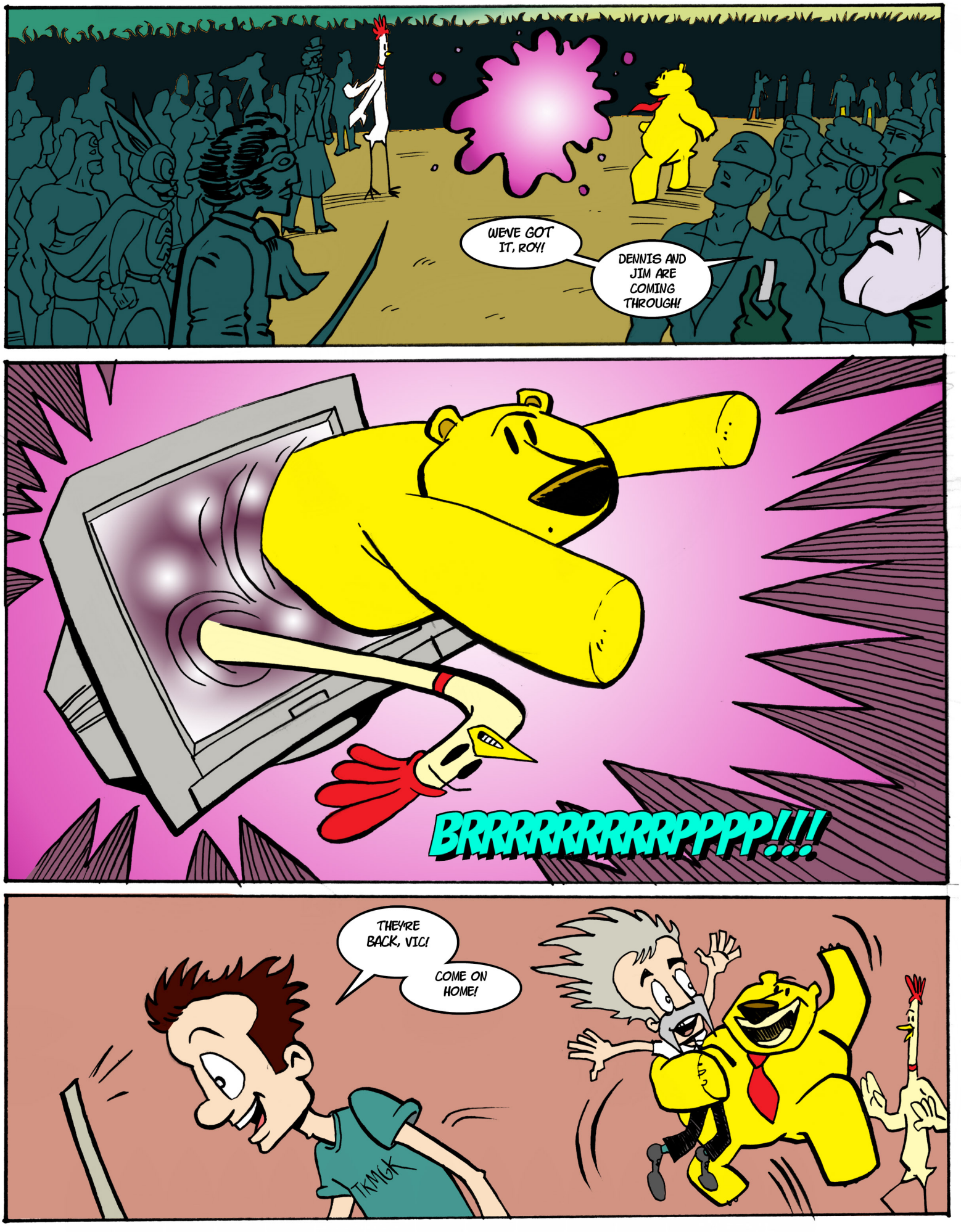
i logged back on, you MORON! and I'VE HAD IT!
stan? where are you, you idjit?
right here, sir!
you let them freeze you in a block of ice, Stan? really?
you disgust me. i'm done playing around.
tell those superstown mods we're reformatting their sector.
in fact, we're reformatting EVERYTHING ON THE FACEPAGE SERVER!
but, sir! That'll wipe out all the profiles!
all 500 MILLION of them!
yeah, this is me not caring.
wipe it clean, and everyone can just start from scratch!

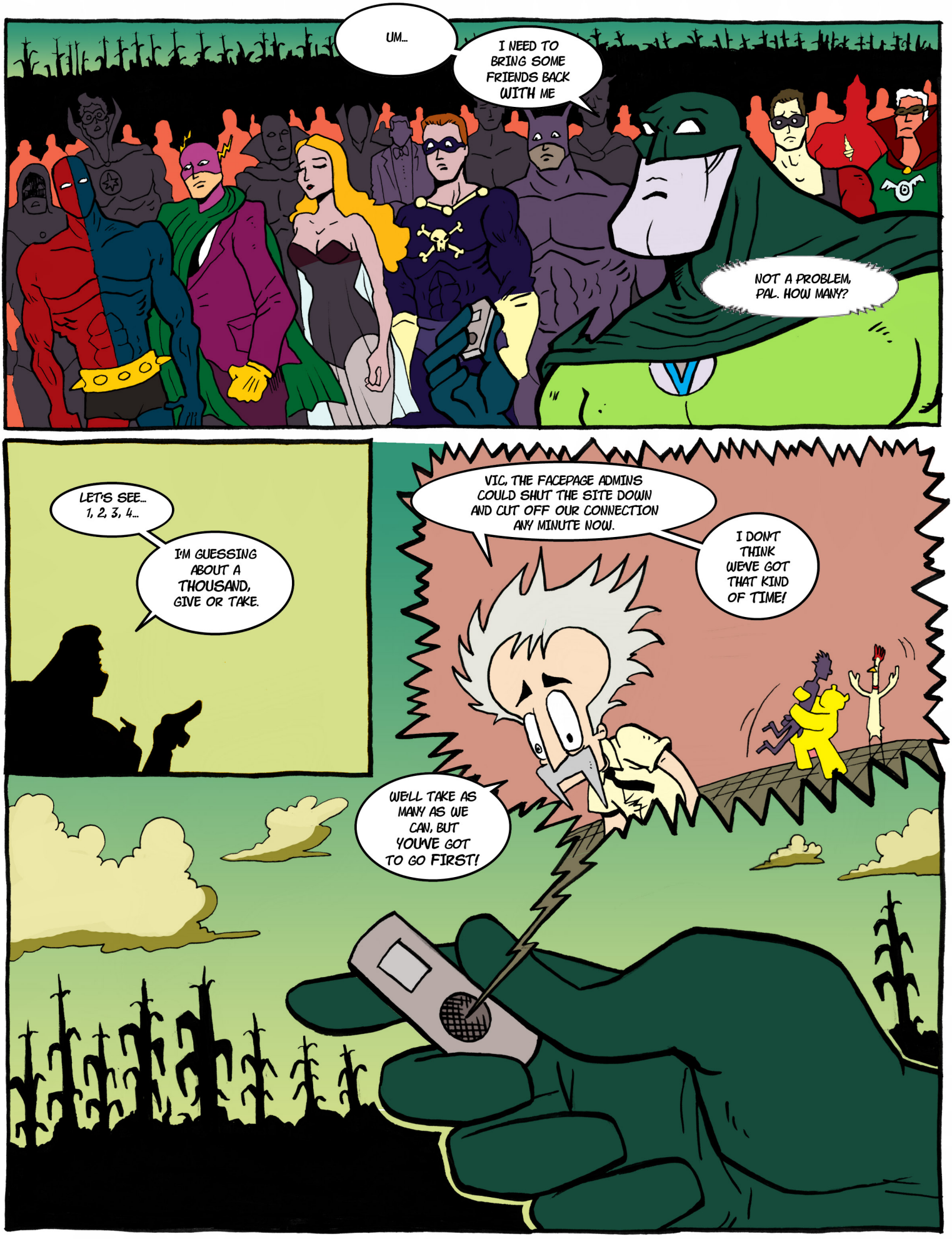

WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD AT ALL.
IT SURE DOESN'T. THAT'LL KILL EVERYONE WHO CAN'T LOG OFF.
NAMELY, US!
SO, NOW WHAT?
YOU ASK ME THAT A LOT
I'M NOT THE GUY WEARING TIGHTS. I'M A BEAR AND A LAWYER. YOU WANT SOMEONE MAULED, I'M YOUR GUY
WHAT ABOUT THE DEVICE YOU USED TO GET HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?
THAT? I TOSSED THAT THING BEFORE YOU GOT HERE. THE BATTERIES DIED WHILE I WAS PLAYING "FREECELL"
IN RETROSPECT, I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE FOUND OTHER WAYS TO AMUSE MYSELF THAT DIDN'T INVOLVE DRAINING MY ONLY LIFELINE, BUT THERE YOU GO
WHY CAN'T YOU GET US OUT? WHO COMES TO A PLACE LIKE THIS WITHOUT AN EXIT STRATEGY?
I HAD A TRACKING DEVICE IN MY HEADGEAR, BUT IT WAS DAMAGED DURING THEIR FIRST WAVE OF ATTACK
WERE ON OUR OWN.

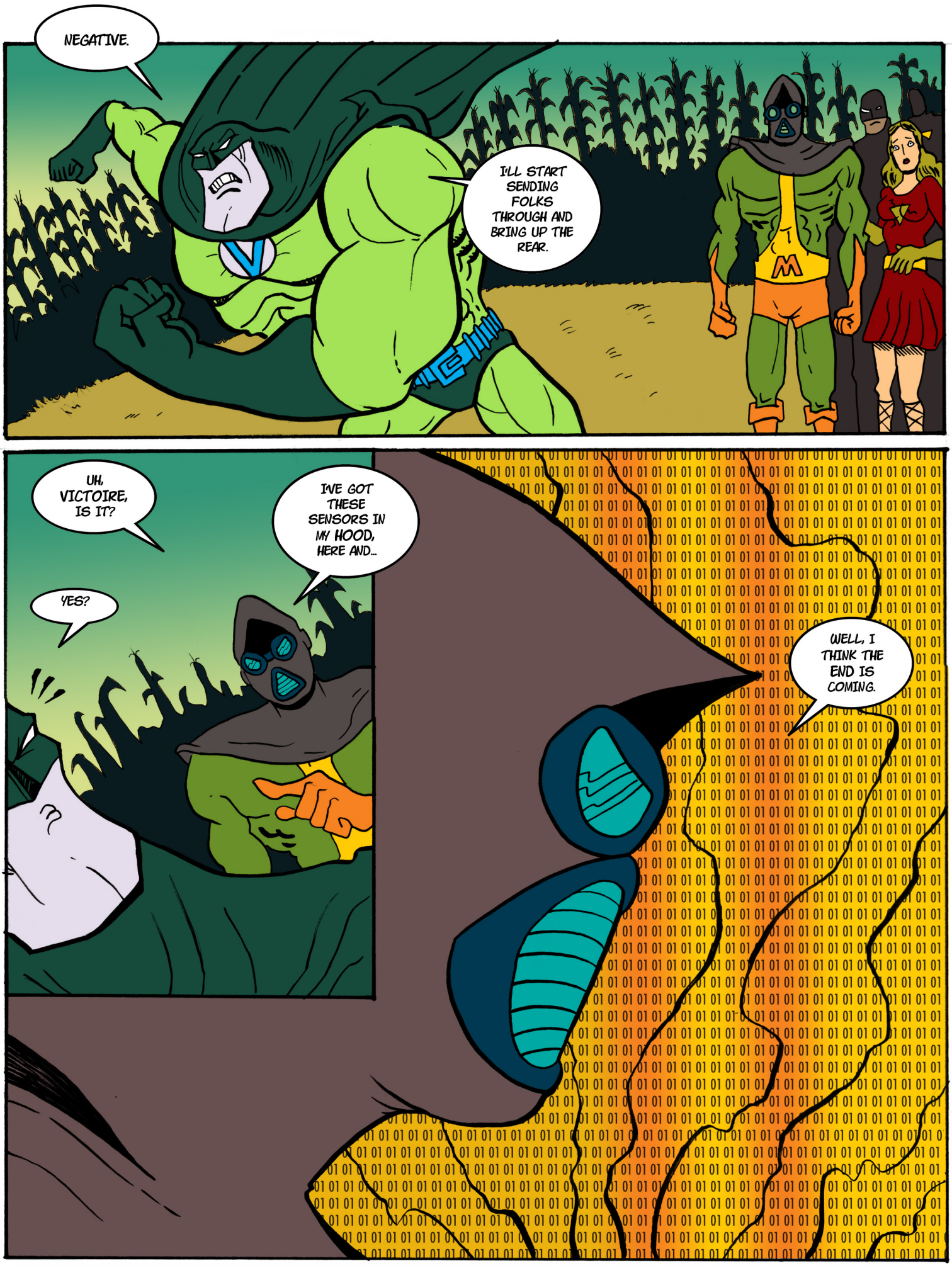
IT'S ONE OF THESE THINGS...
ONLY IT WAS IN THE SHAPE OF A "V."
THAT'S CORRECT, DENNIS, IT WAS IN THE SHAPE OF...
DENNIS?
DENNIS!!!
' SUP?
TASTY LITTLE BUDDY!
' SUP?

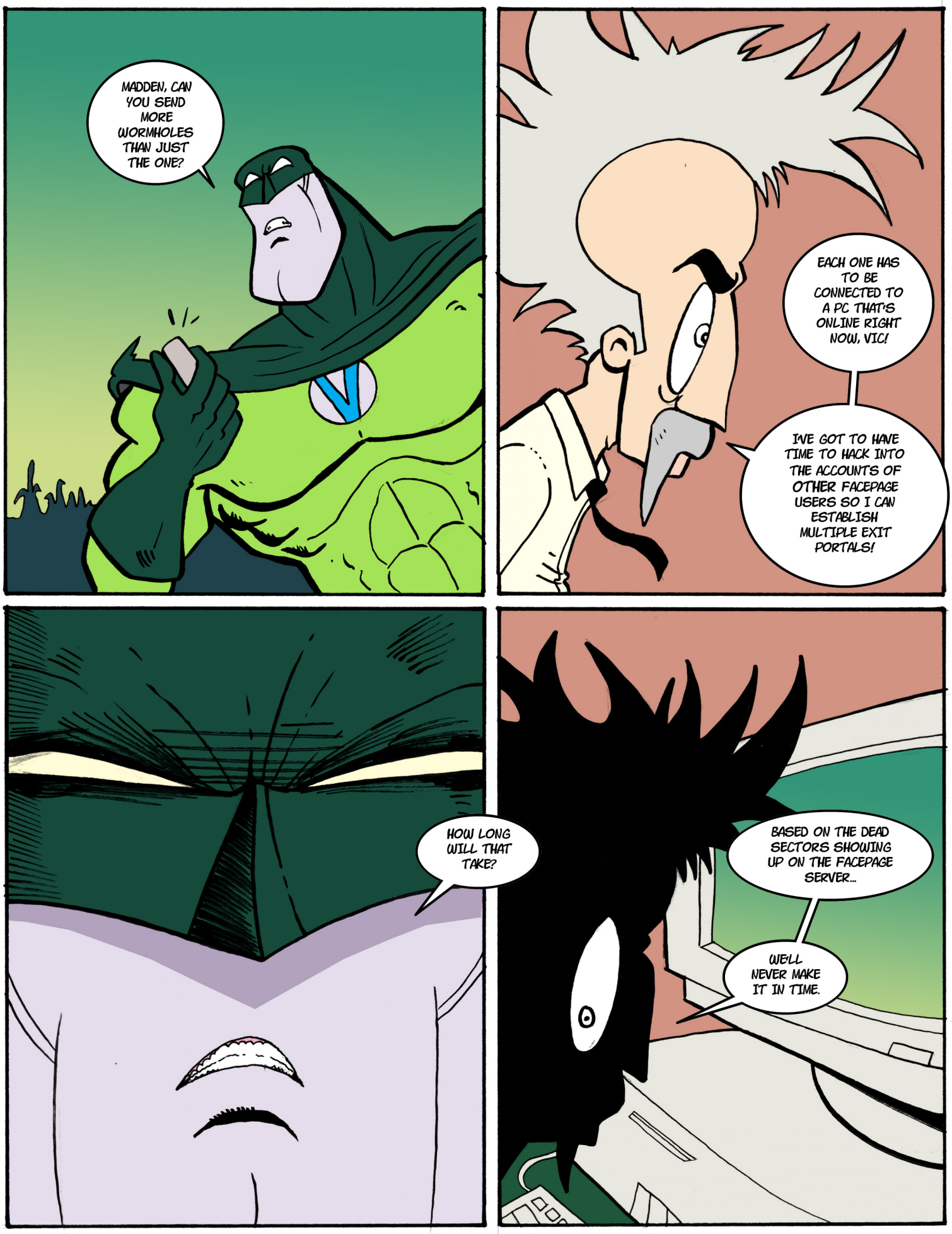

HOW DID YOU FIND US?
'TWARNT NOTHIN'.
WE JUST CAME IN AND KEVIN HERE ASKED AROUND.
THE ANIMALS ON THE OTHER FARMS TOLD US WHERE YOU'D BE.
THE CHICKENS ALWAYS KNOW, VIC. REMEMBER THAT.
THE CHICKENS ALWAYS KNOW.


TKM6K
BLIP
TKM6K
MADDEN? ROY? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
VIC! WE THOUGHT WED LOST YOU!
IS DENNIS WITH YOU?
AFFIRMATIVE. WERE GOING TO NEED A LIFT HOME!
YOUVE GOT IT, BUDDY! WERE LOCKED ONTO YOUR SIGNAL AND SENDING A WORMHOLE!
TKM6K

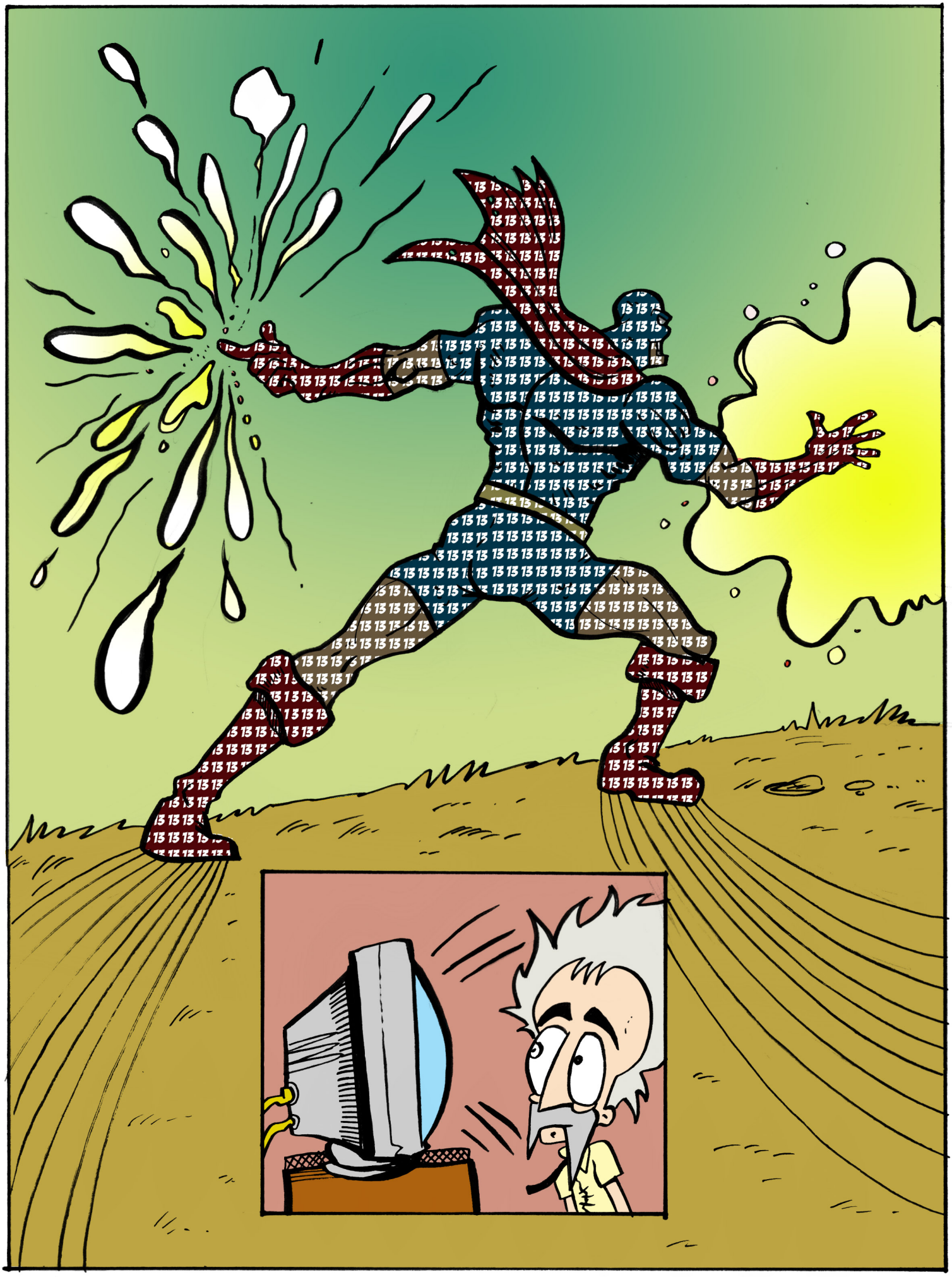

WE'VE GOT IT, ROY!
DENNIS AND JIM ARE COMING THROUGH!
BRRRRRRRRRRRPPPPP!!!
THEY'RE BACK, VIC!
COME ON HOME!
TKMGK

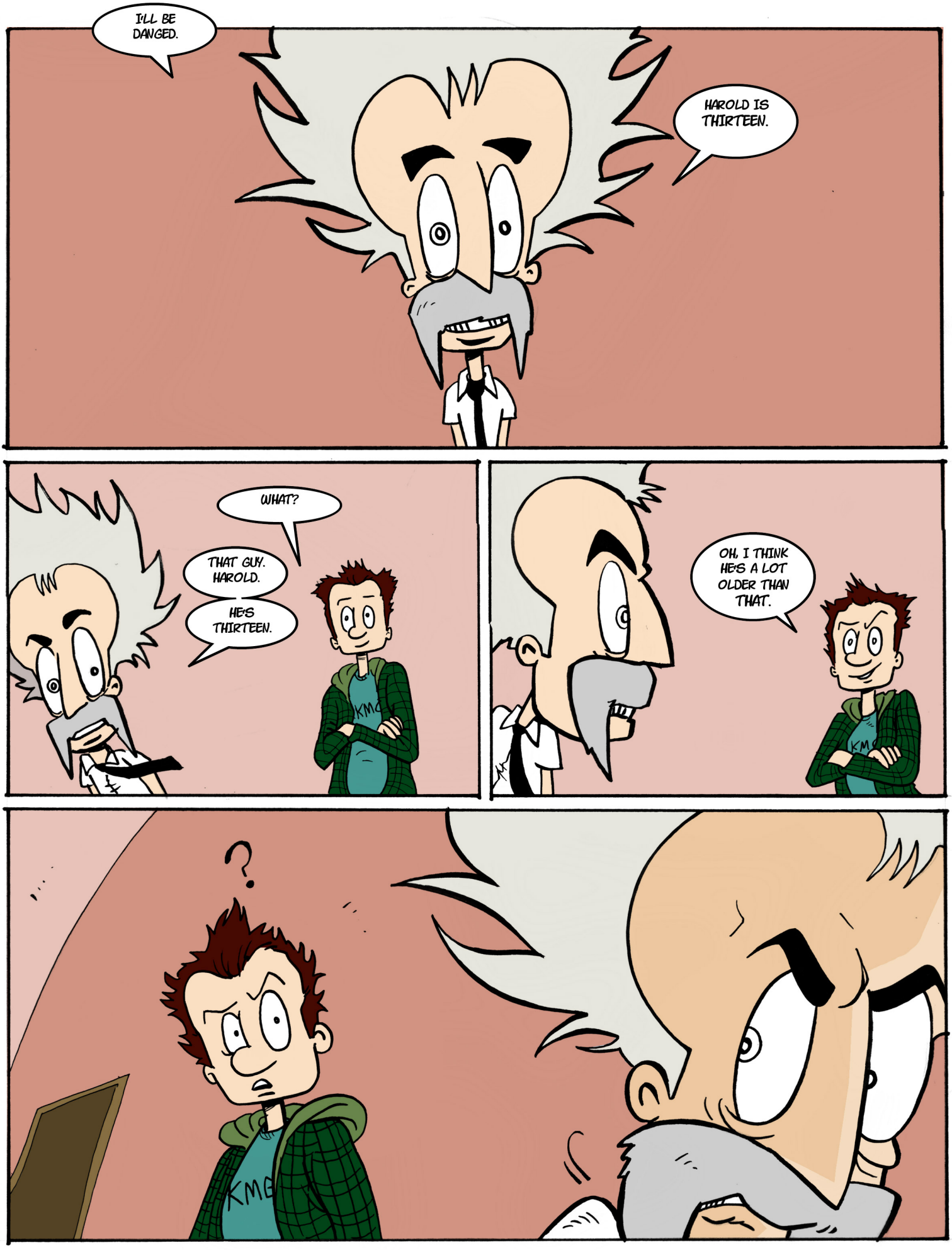

UM...
I NEED TO BRING SOME FRIENDS BACK WITH ME
NOT A PROBLEM, PAL. HOW MANY?
LET'S SEE... 1, 2, 3, 4...
I'M GUESSING ABOUT A THOUSAND, GIVE OR TAKE.
VIC, THE FACEPAGE ADMINS COULD SHUT THE SITE DOWN AND CUT OFF OUR CONNECTION ANY MINUTE NOW.
I DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT THAT KIND OF TIME!
WE'LL TAKE AS MANY AS WE CAN, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GO FIRST!

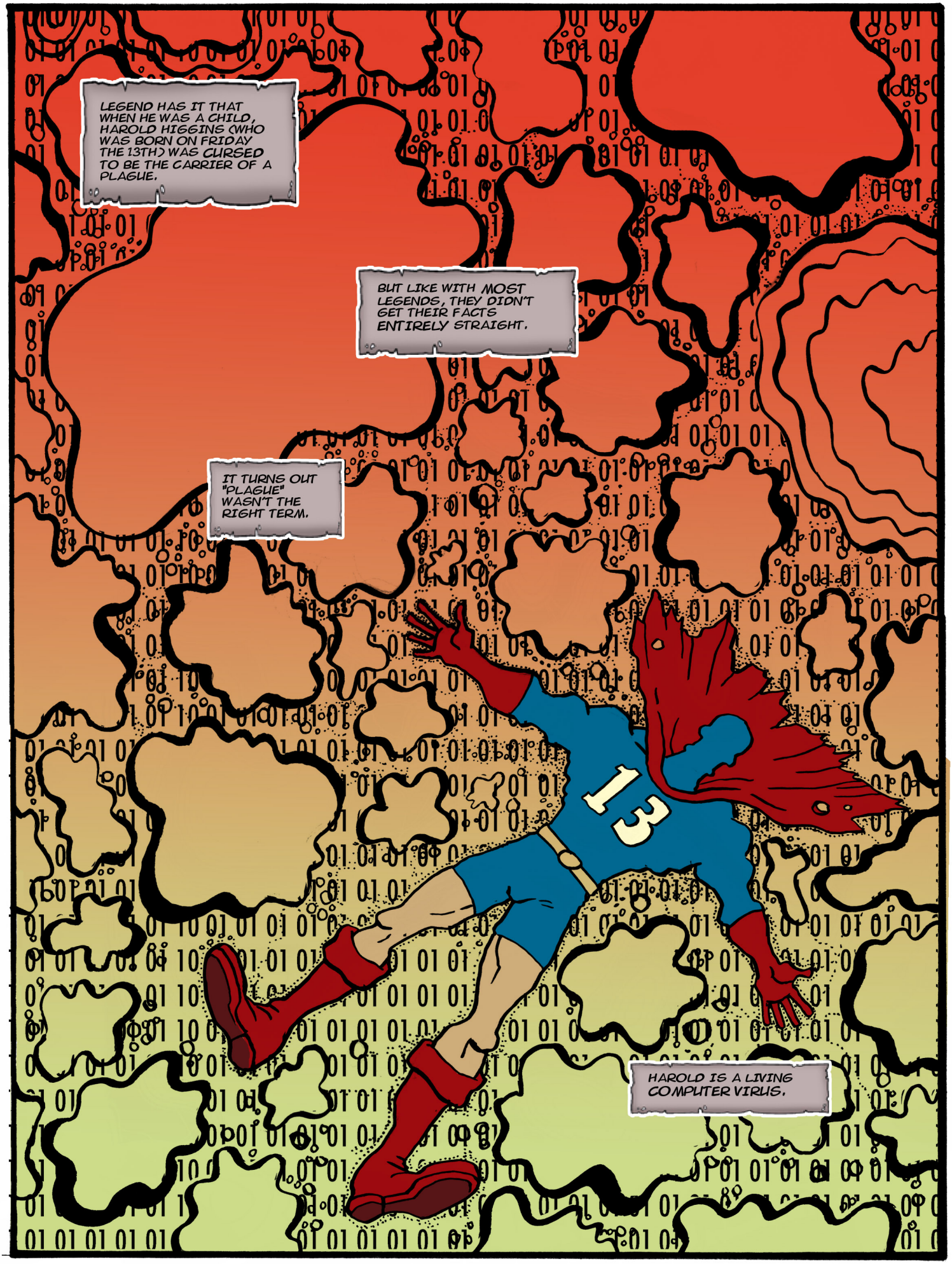

NEGATIVE.
I'LL START SENDING FOLKS THROUGH AND BRING UP THE REAR.
UH, VICTOIRE, IS IT?
YES?
I'VE GOT THESE SENSORS IN MY HOOD, HERE AND...
WELL, I THINK THE END IS COMING.

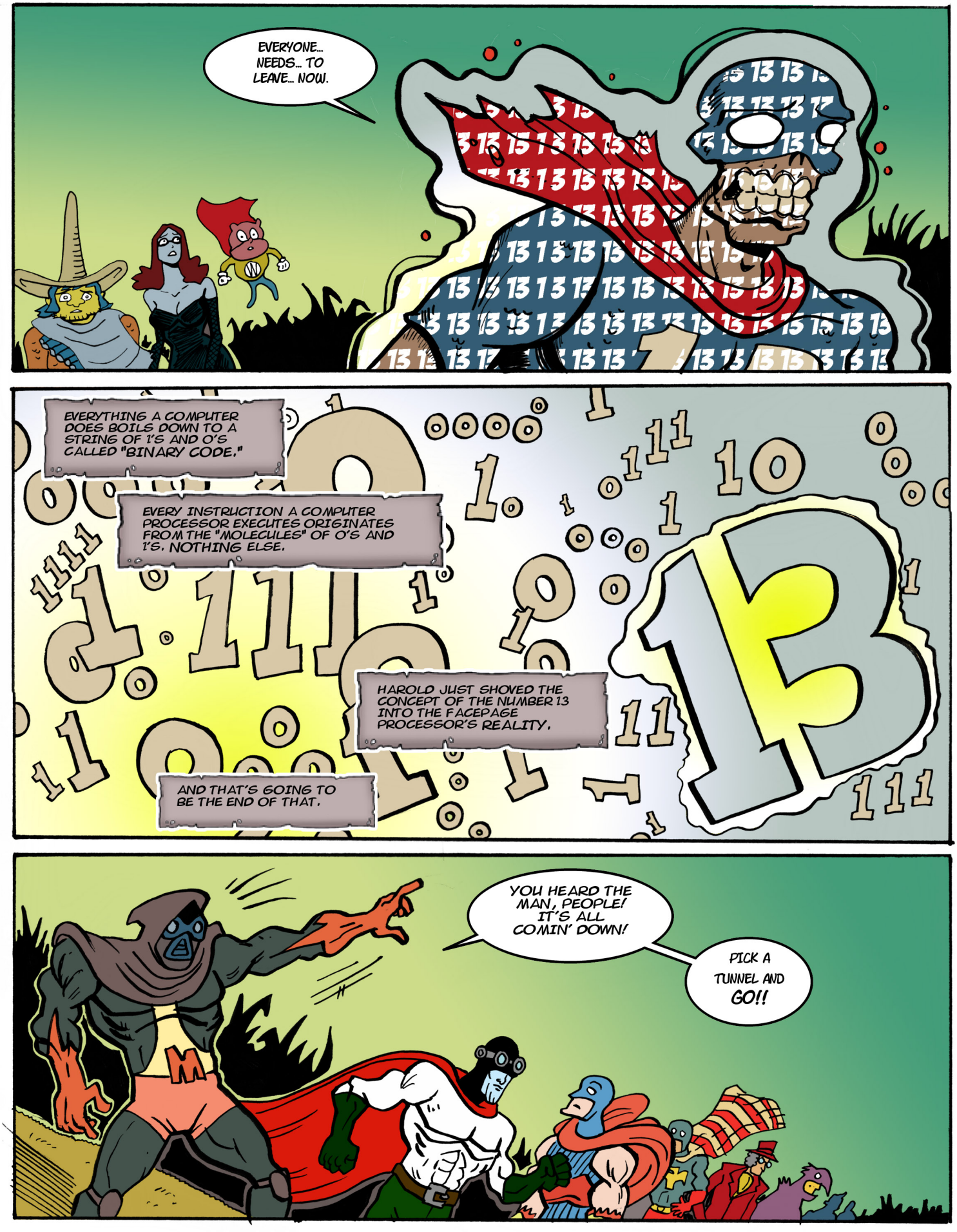

MADDEN, CAN YOU SEND MORE WORMHOLES THAN JUST THE ONE?
EACH ONE HAS TO BE CONNECTED TO A PC THAT'S ONLINE RIGHT NOW, VIC!
I'VE GOT TO HAVE TIME TO HACK INTO THE ACCOUNTS OF OTHER FACEPAGE USERS SO I CAN ESTABLISH MULTIPLE EXIT PORTALS!
HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?
BASED ON THE DEAD SECTORS SHOWING UP ON THE FACEPAGE SERVER...
WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME.

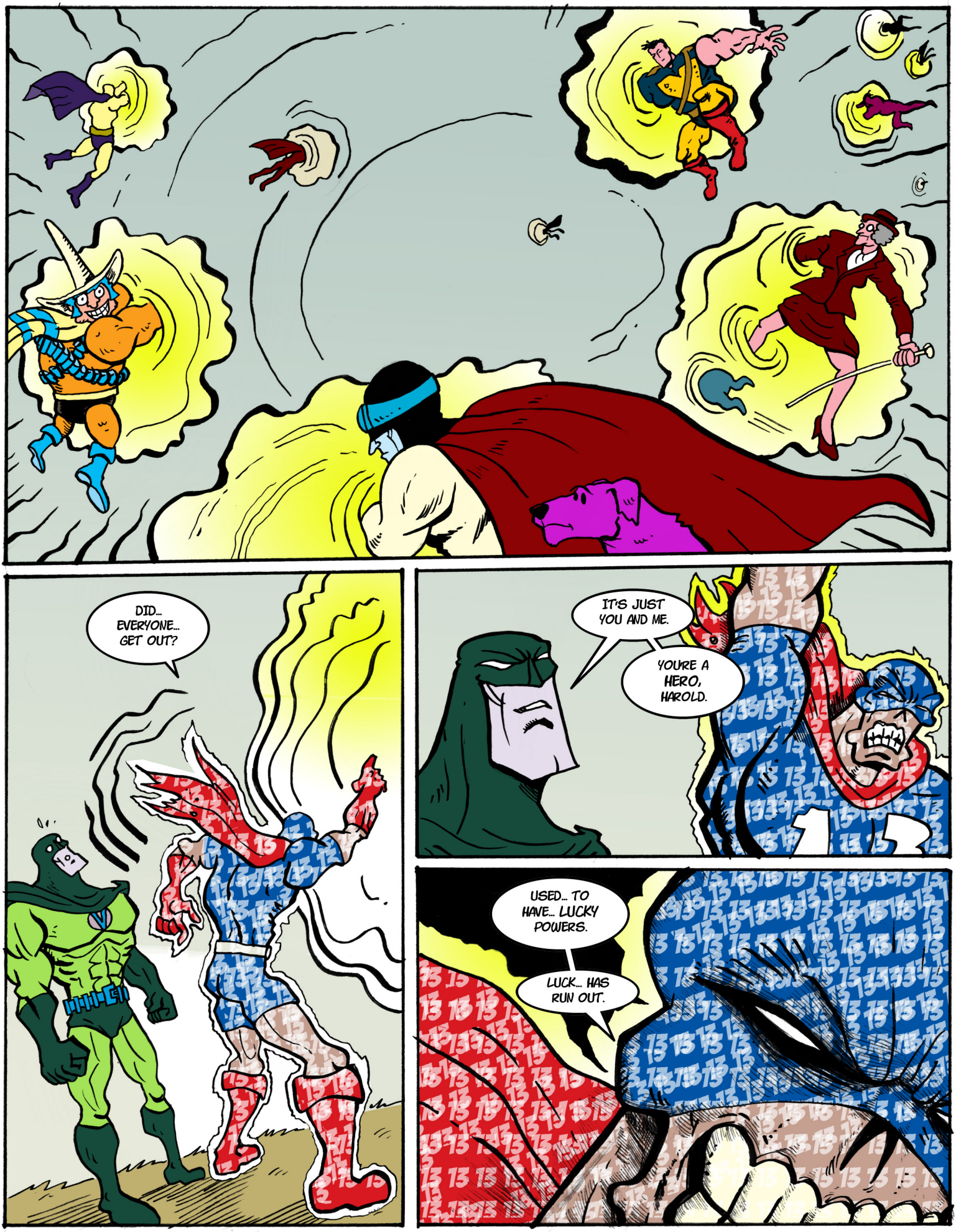
13
I THINK I CAN HELP.
HAROLD?

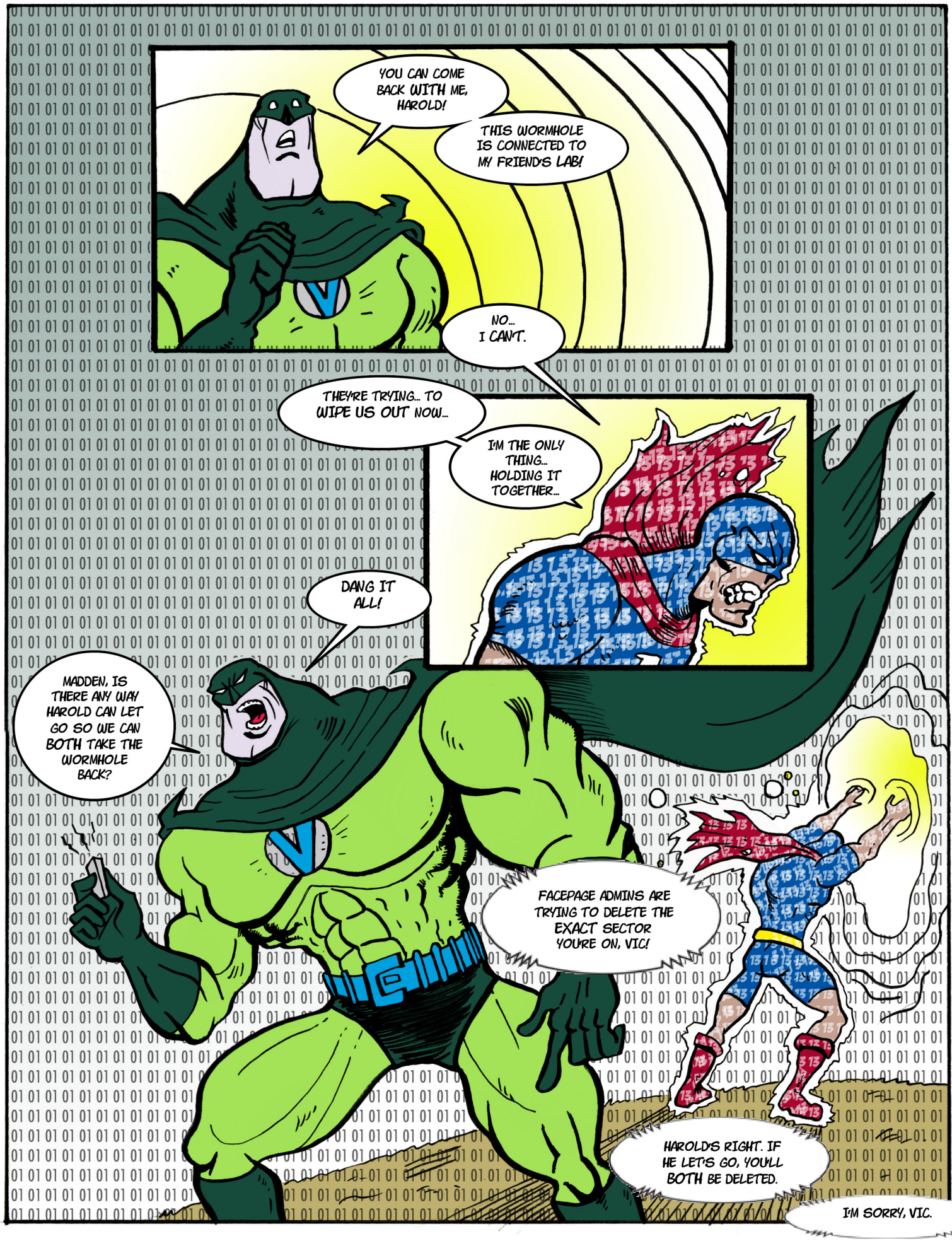


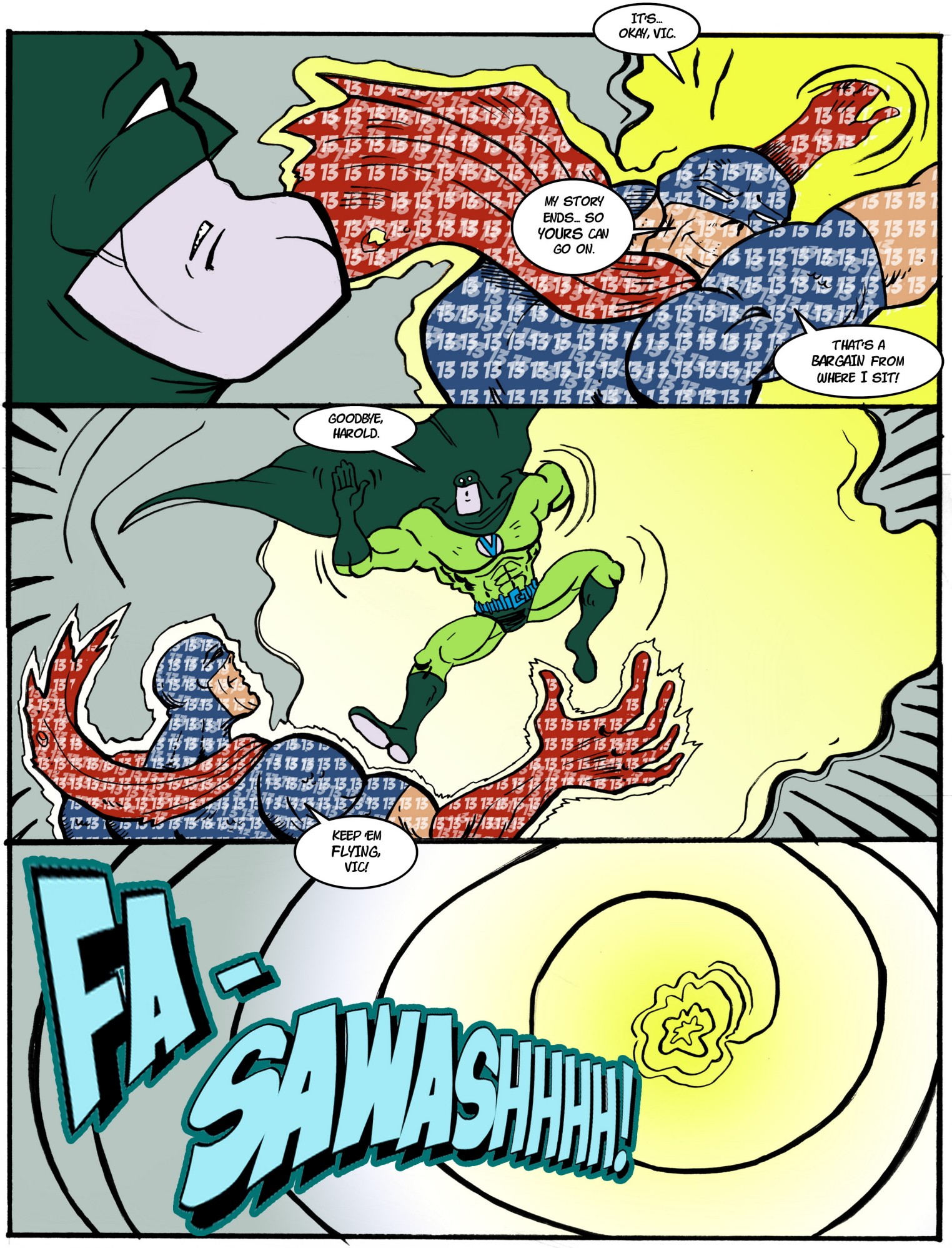

I'LL BE DANGED.
HAROLD IS THIRTEEN.
WHAT?
THAT GUY. HAROLD.
HE'S THIRTEEN.
OH, I THINK HE'S A LOT OLDER THAN THAT.
?

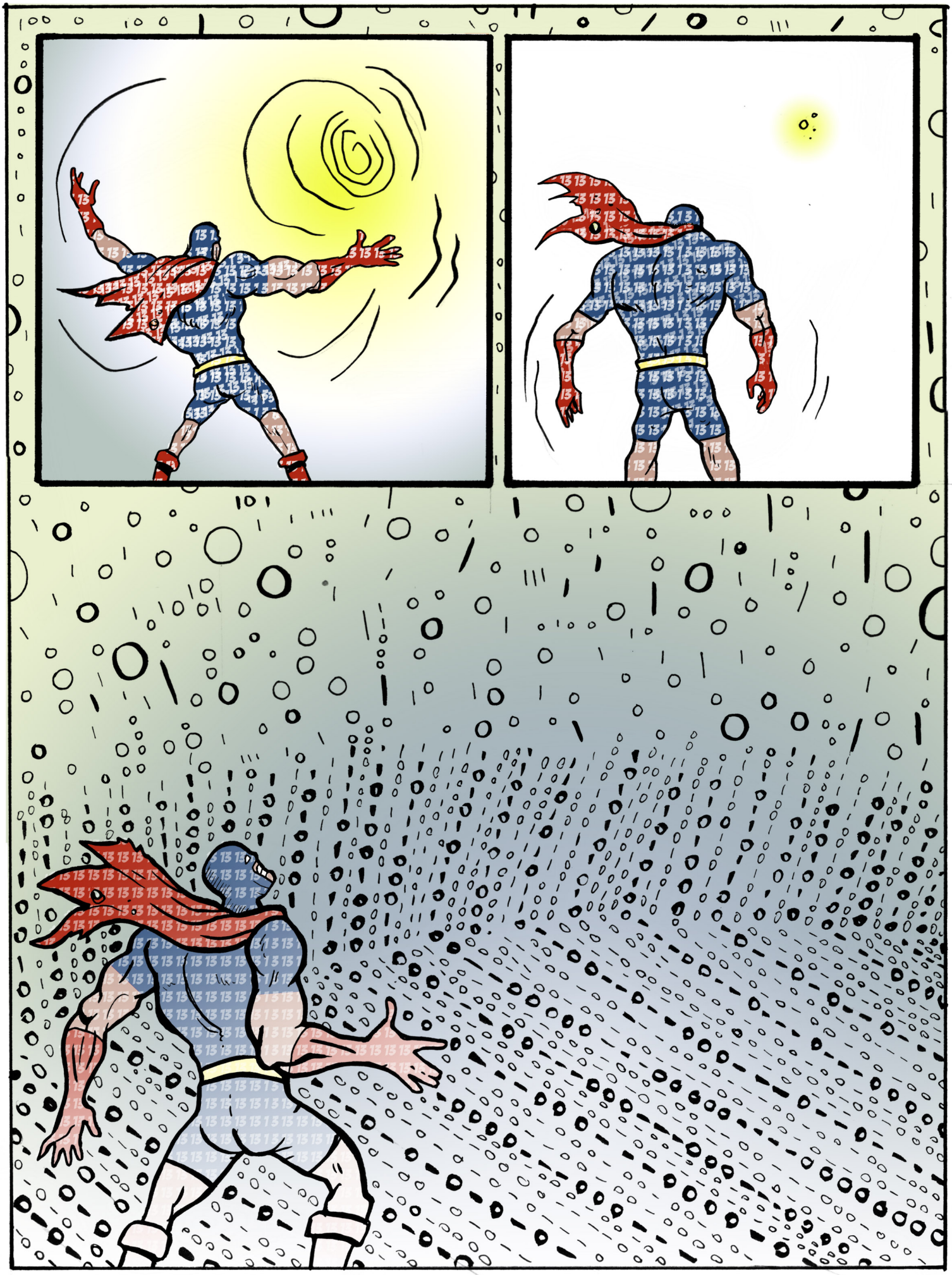

LEGEND HAS IT THAT WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, HAROLD HIGGINS (WHO WAS BORN ON FRIDAY THE 13TH) WAS CURSED TO BE THE CARRIER OF A PLAGUE.
BUT LIKE WITH MOST LEGENDS, THEY DIDN'T GET THEIR FACTS ENTIRELY STRAIGHT.
IT TURNS OUT "PLAGUE" WASN'T THE RIGHT TERM.
13
HAROLD IS A LIVING COMPUTER VIRUS.


EVERYONE... NEEDS... TO LEAVE... NOW.
EVERYTHING A COMPUTER DOES BOILS DOWN TO A STRING OF 1'S AND 0'S CALLED "BINARY CODE."
EVERY INSTRUCTION A COMPUTER PROCESSOR EXECUTES ORIGINATES FROM THE "MOLECULES" OF 0'S AND 1'S. NOTHING ELSE.
HAROLD JUST SHOVED THE CONCEPT OF THE NUMBER 13 INTO THE FACEPAGE PROCESSOR'S REALITY.
AND THAT'S GOING TO BE THE END OF THAT.
YOU HEARD THE MAN, PEOPLE! IT'S ALL COMIN' DOWN!
PICK A TUNNEL AND GO!!


DID... EVERYONE... GET OUT?
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.
YOU'RE A HERO, HAROLD.
USED... TO HAVE... LUCKY POWERS.
LUCK... HAS RUN OUT.

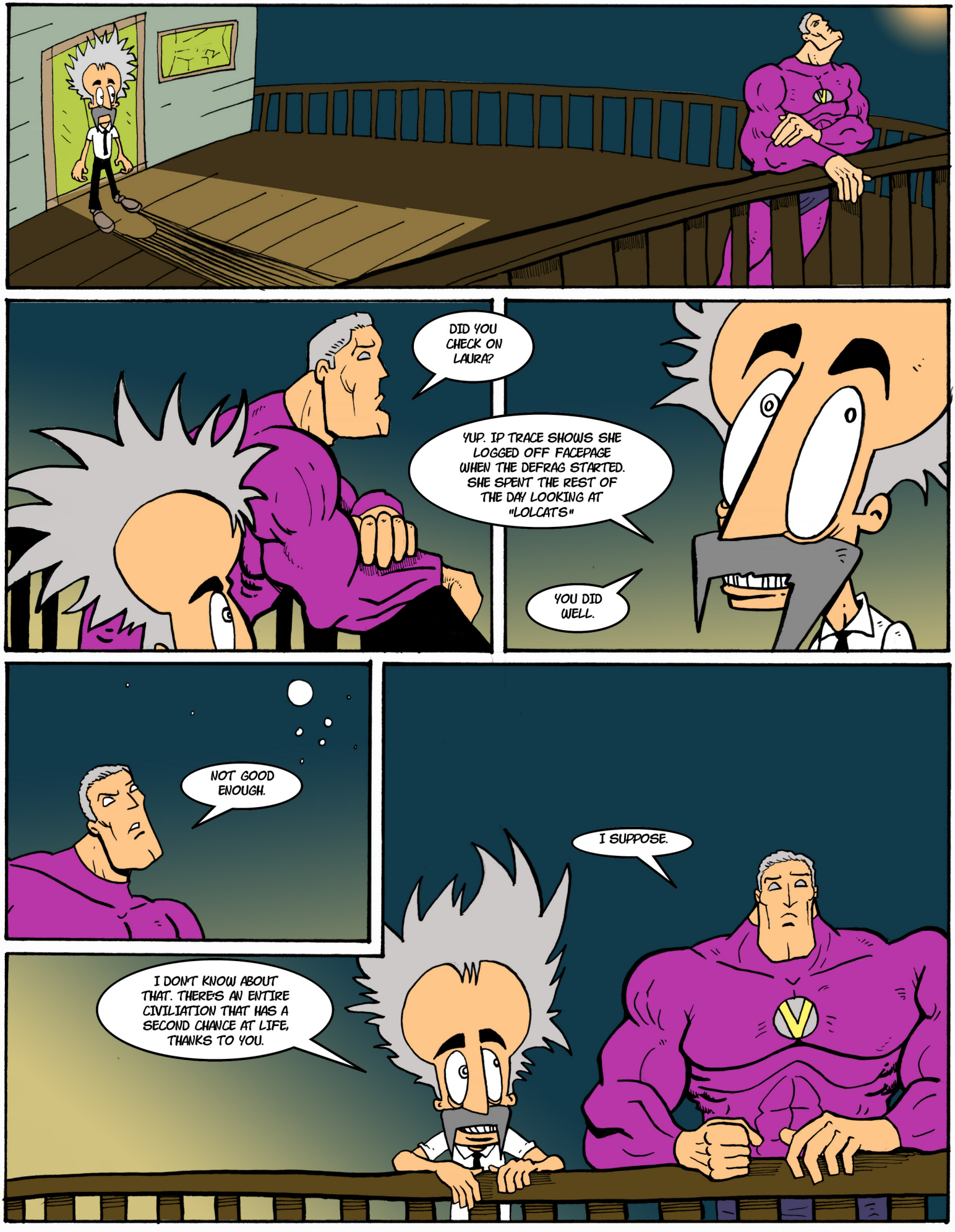

YOU CAN COME BACK WITH ME, HAROLD!
THIS WORMHOLE IS CONNECTED TO MY FRIENDS LAB!
NO... I CAN'T.
THEY'RE TRYING... TO WIPE US OUT NOW...
I'M THE ONLY THING... HOLDING IT TOGETHER...
DANG IT ALL!
MADDEN, IS THERE ANY WAY HAROLD CAN LET GO SO WE CAN BOTH TAKE THE WORMHOLE BACK?
FACEPAGE ADMINS ARE TRYING TO DELETE THE EXACT SECTOR YOURE ON, VIC!
HAROLD'S RIGHT. IF HE LET'S GO, YOU'LL BOTH BE DELETED.
I'M SORRY, VIC.

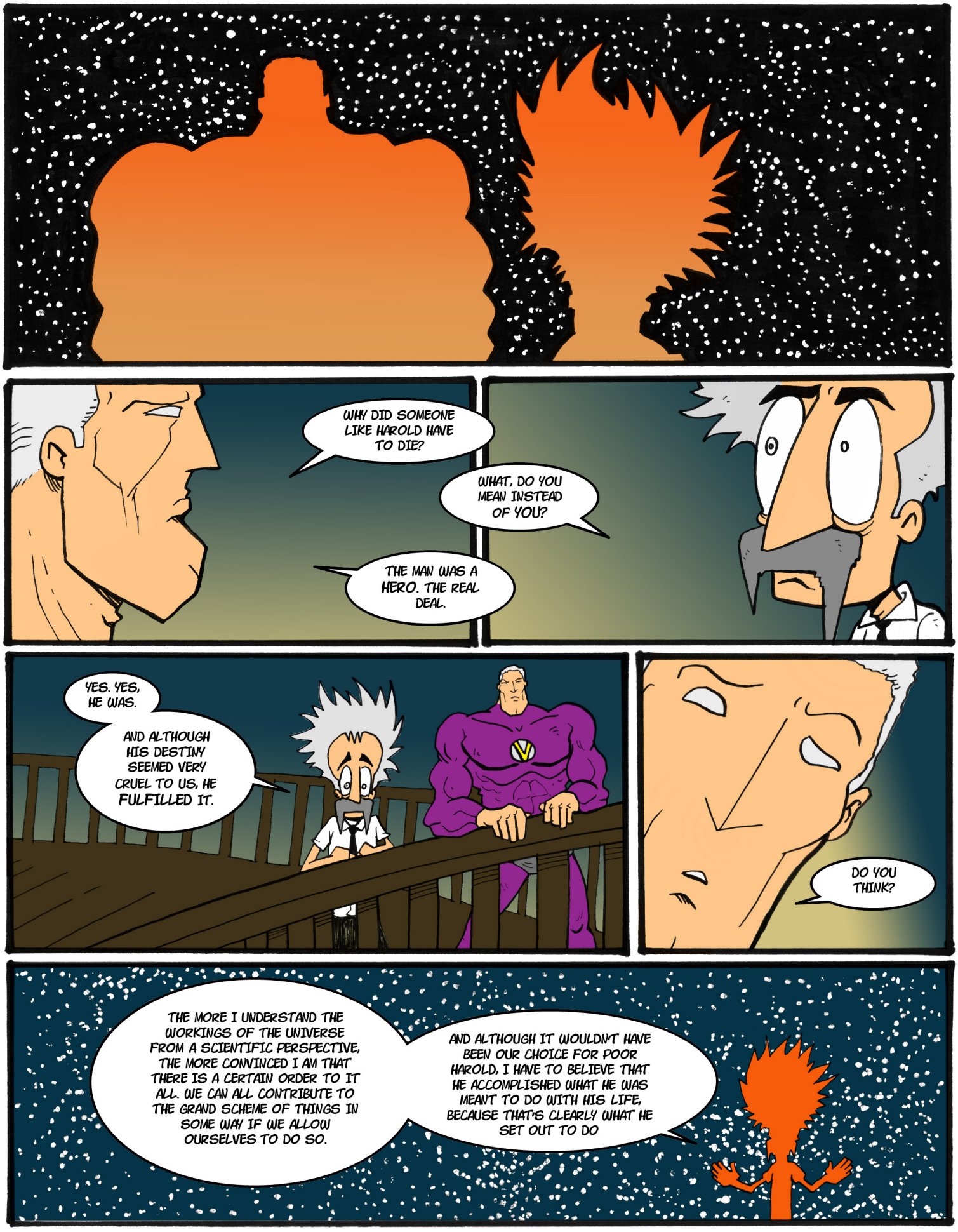

IT'S... OKAY, VIC.
MY STORY ENDS... SO YOURS CAN GO ON.
THAT'S A BARGAIN FROM WHERE I SIT!
GOODBYE, HAROLD.
KEEP 'EM FLYING, VIC!
FA-SAWASHHHH!

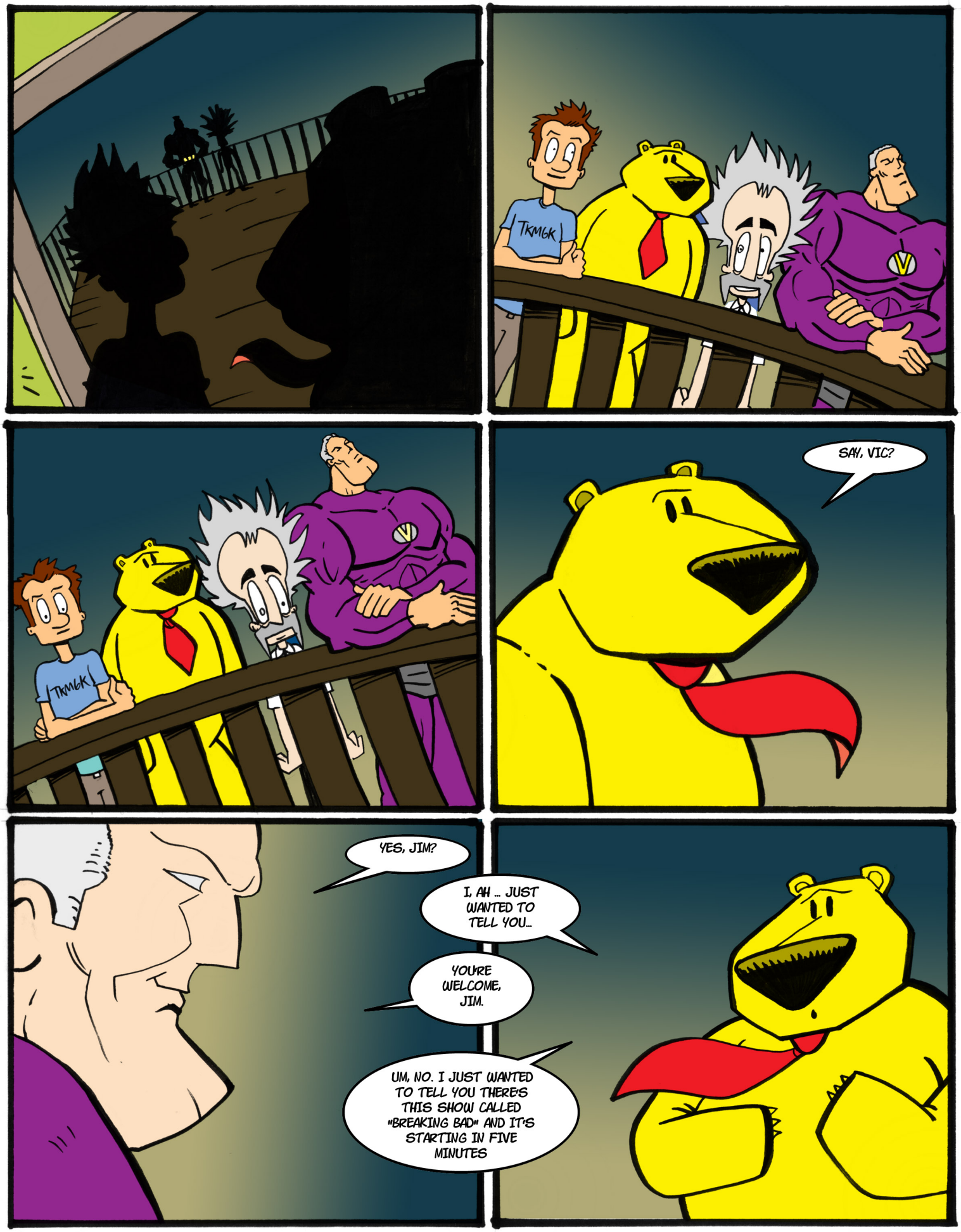


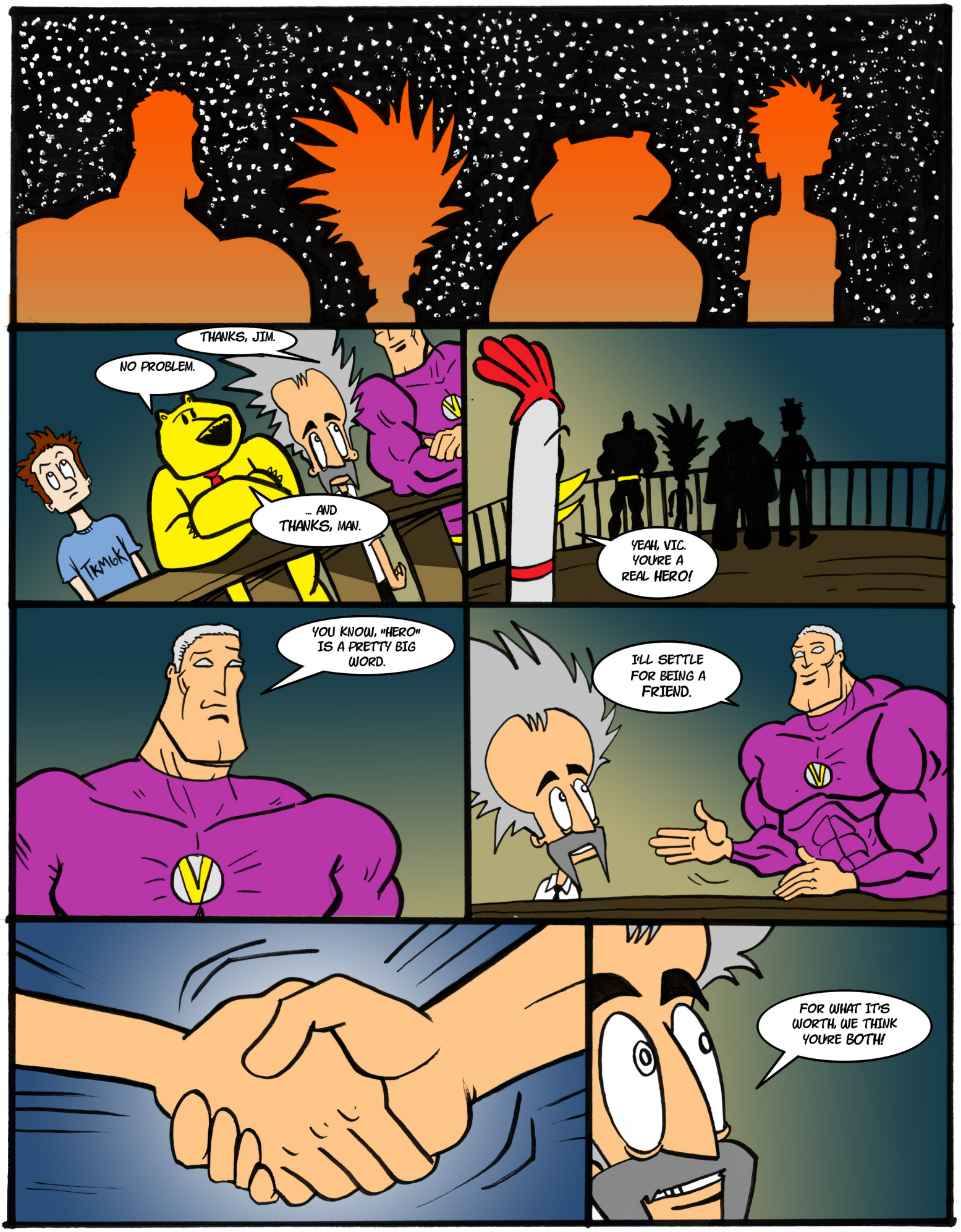
BURR -
REPPPPP!

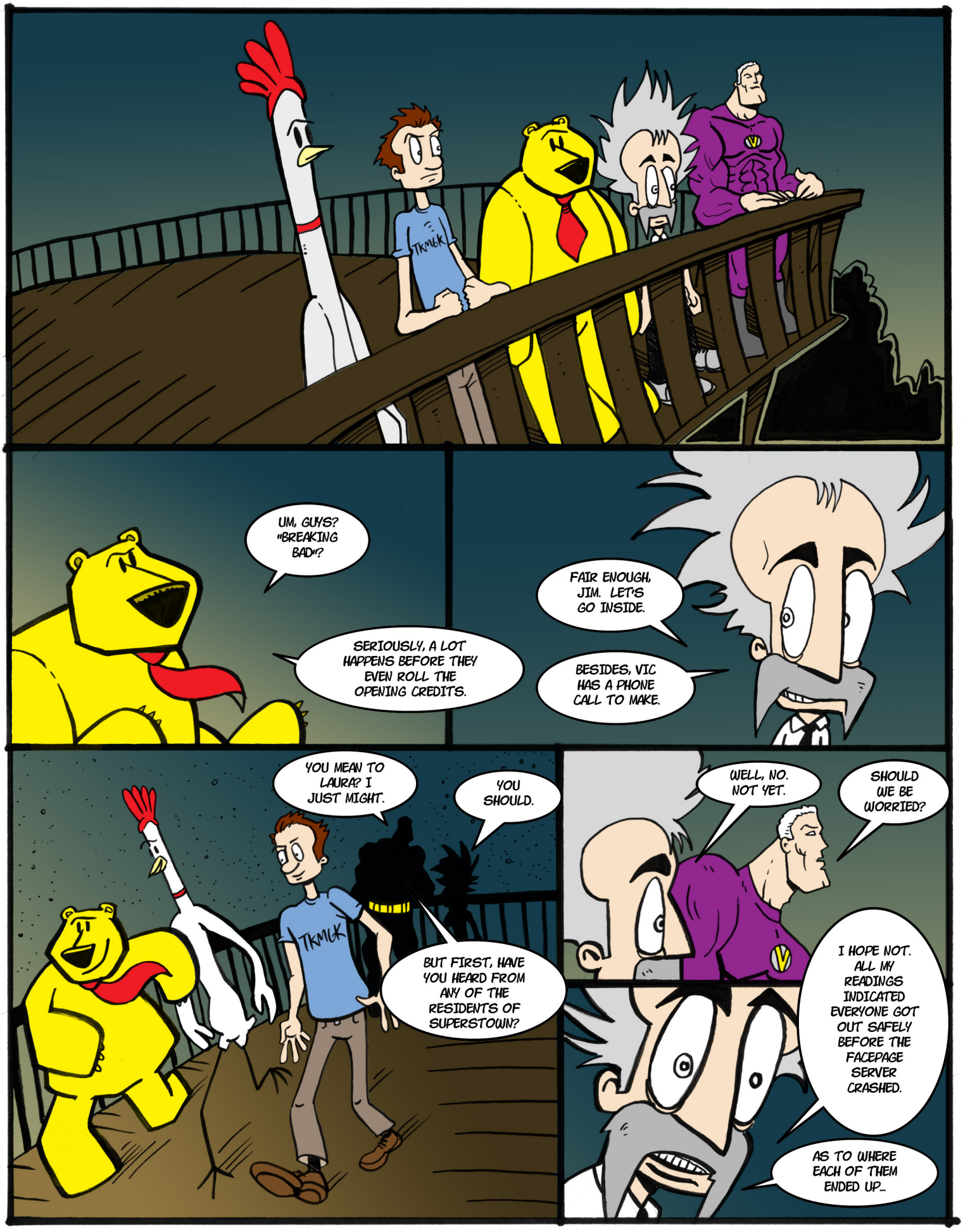
LATER THAT NIGHT...
WELCOME HOME JIM!
WHAT'S IT CALLED AGAIN?
THIS SHOW ROCKS!
"BURN NOTICE."
THAT FIONA IS HOT!
NOTHIN' HOTTER THAN A WOMAN WHO CAN HANDLE A HIGH-CALIBER FIREARM IN A COCKTAIL DRESS.
I'VE MISSED... SO VERY, VERY MUCH!
JIM!

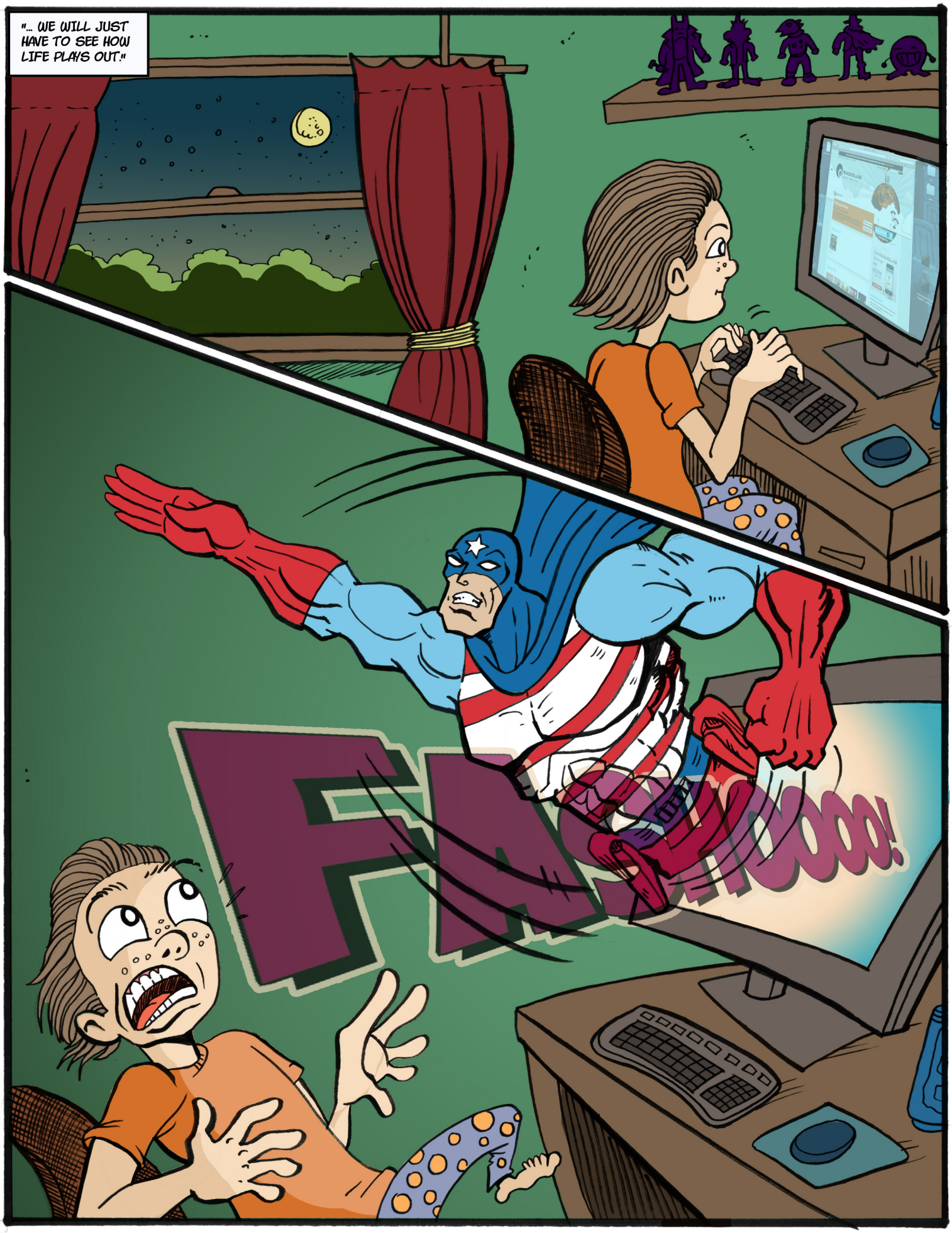

DID YOU CHECK ON LAURA?
YUP. IP TRACE SHOWS SHE LOGGED OFF FACEPAGE WHEN THE DEFRAG STARTED. SHE SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY LOOKING AT "LOLCATS"
YOU DID WELL.
NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
I SUPPOSE.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. THERE'S AN ENTIRE CIVILIATION THAT HAS A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE, THANKS TO YOU.

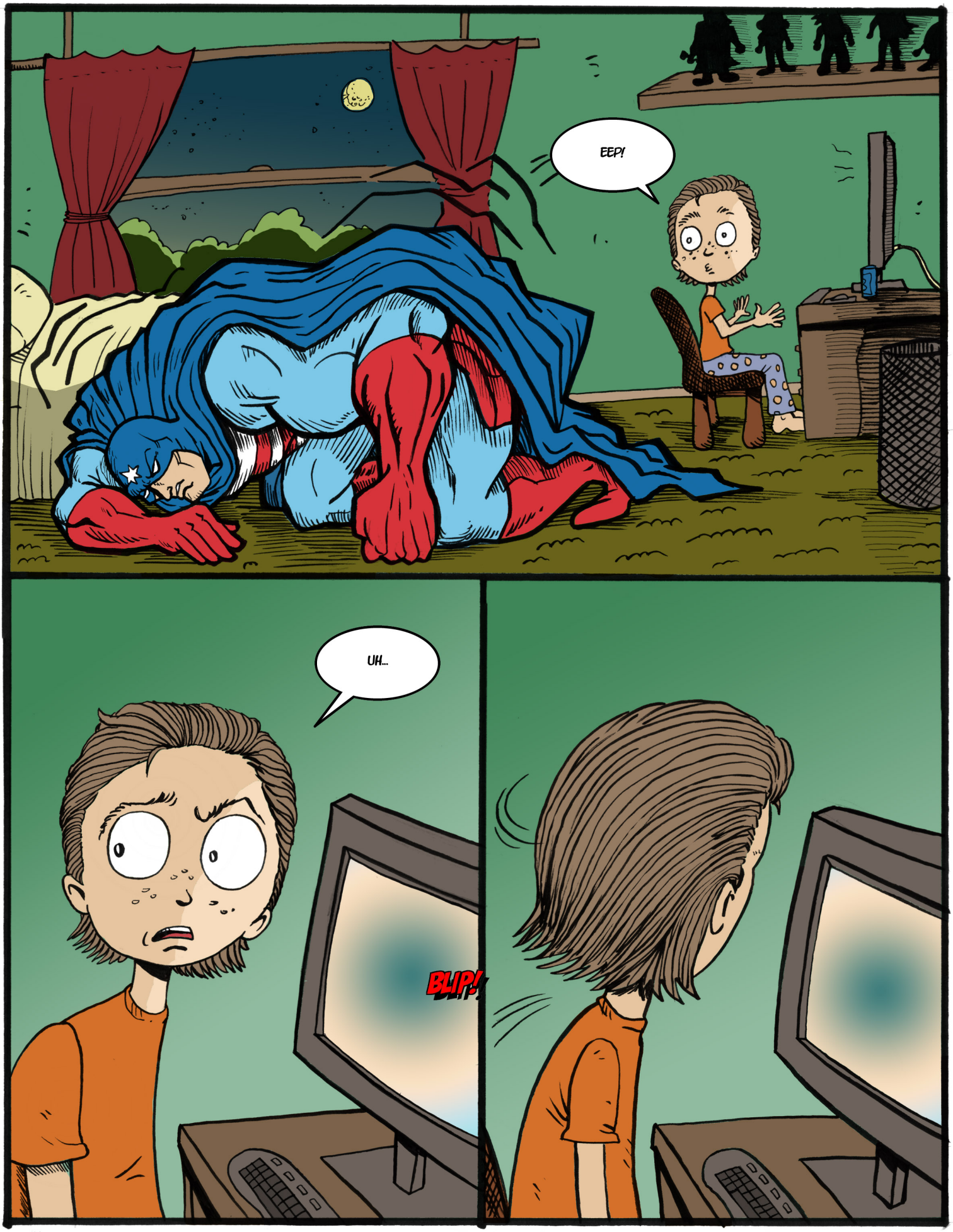

WHY DID SOMEONE LIKE HAROLD HAVE TO DIE?
WHAT, DO YOU MEAN INSTEAD OF YOU?
THE MAN WAS A HERO. THE REAL DEAL.
YES. YES, HE WAS.
AND ALTHOUGH HIS DESTINY SEEMED VERY CRUEL TO US, HE FULFILLED IT.
DO YOU THINK?
THE MORE I UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF THE UNIVERSE FROM A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE, THE MORE CONVINCED I AM THAT THERE IS A CERTAIN ORDER TO IT ALL. WE CAN ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS IN SOME WAY IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO DO SO.
AND ALTHOUGH IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN OUR CHOICE FOR POOR HAROLD, I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT HE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT HE WAS MEANT TO DO WITH HIS LIFE, BECAUSE THAT'S CLEARLY WHAT HE SET OUT TO DO

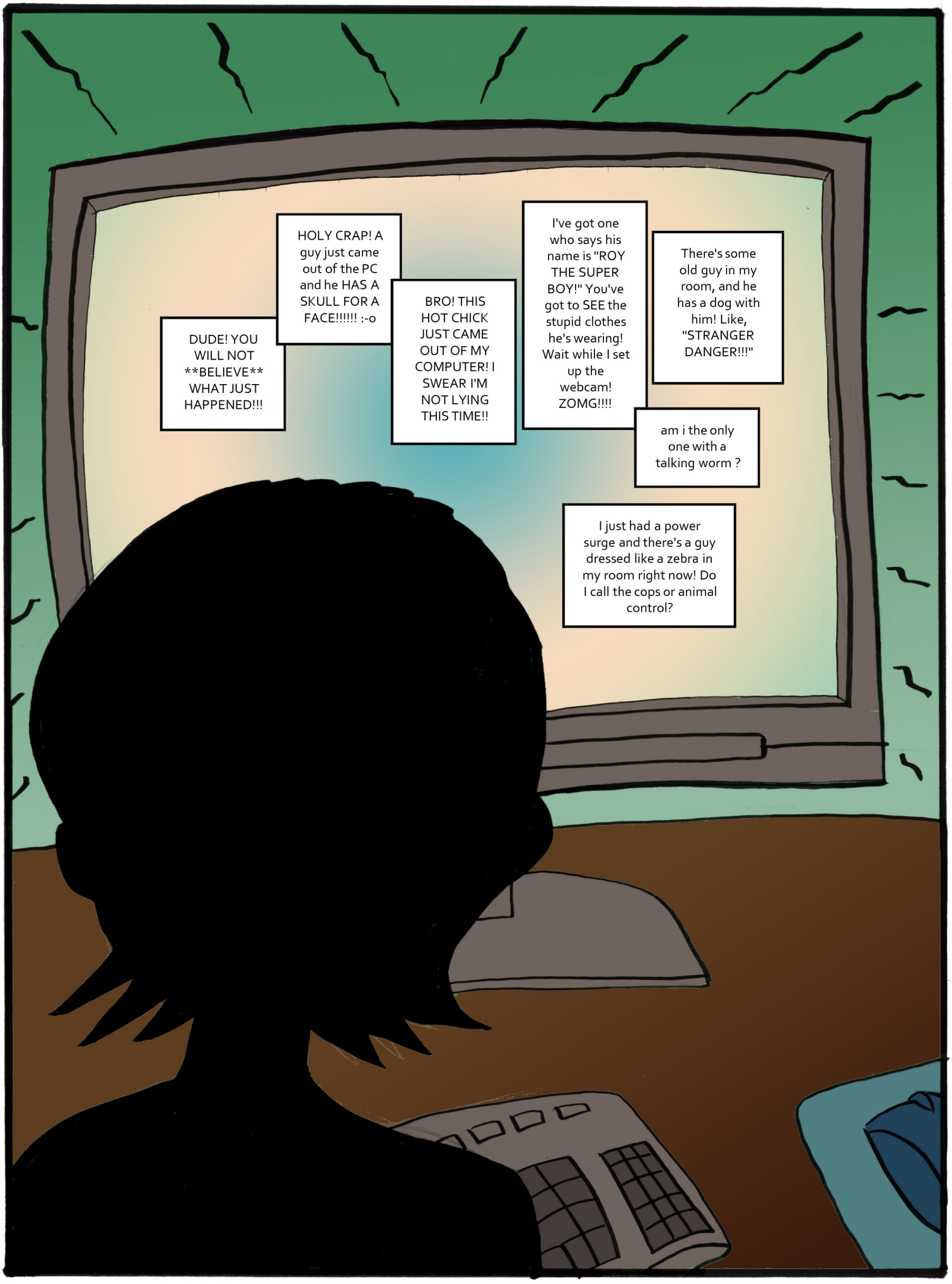

TKMGK
SAY, VIC?
TKMGK
YES, JIM?
I, AH ... JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU...
YOU'RE WELCOME, JIM.
UM, NO. I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THERE'S THIS SHOW CALLED "BREAKING BAD" AND IT'S STARTING IN FIVE MINUTES

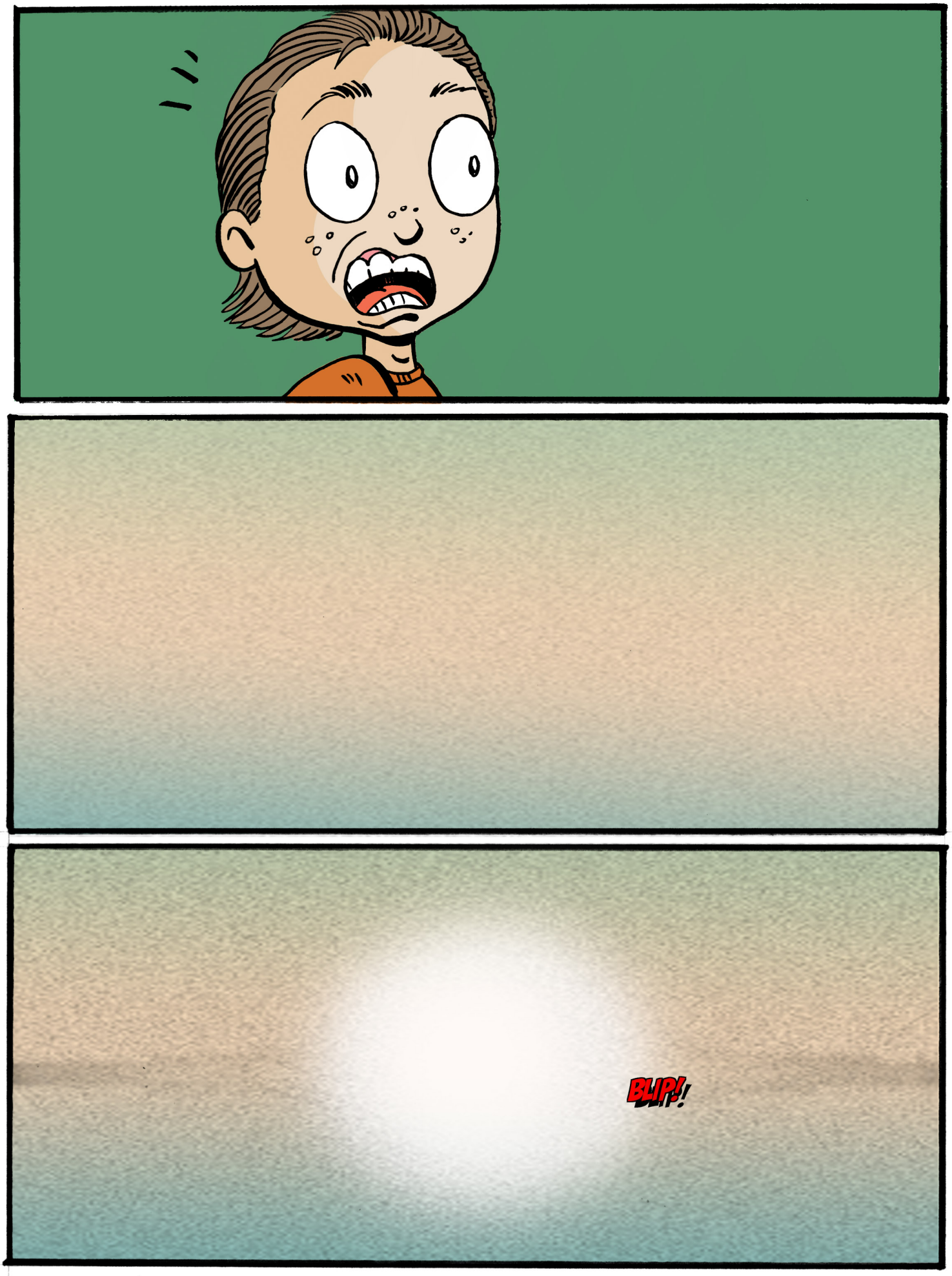

THANKS, JIM.
NO PROBLEM.
... AND THANKS, MAN.
TKM6K
YEAH, VIC. YOU'RE A REAL HERO!
YOU KNOW, "HERO" IS A PRETTY BIG WORD.
I'LL SETTLE FOR BEING A FRIEND.
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, WE THINK YOU'RE BOTH!

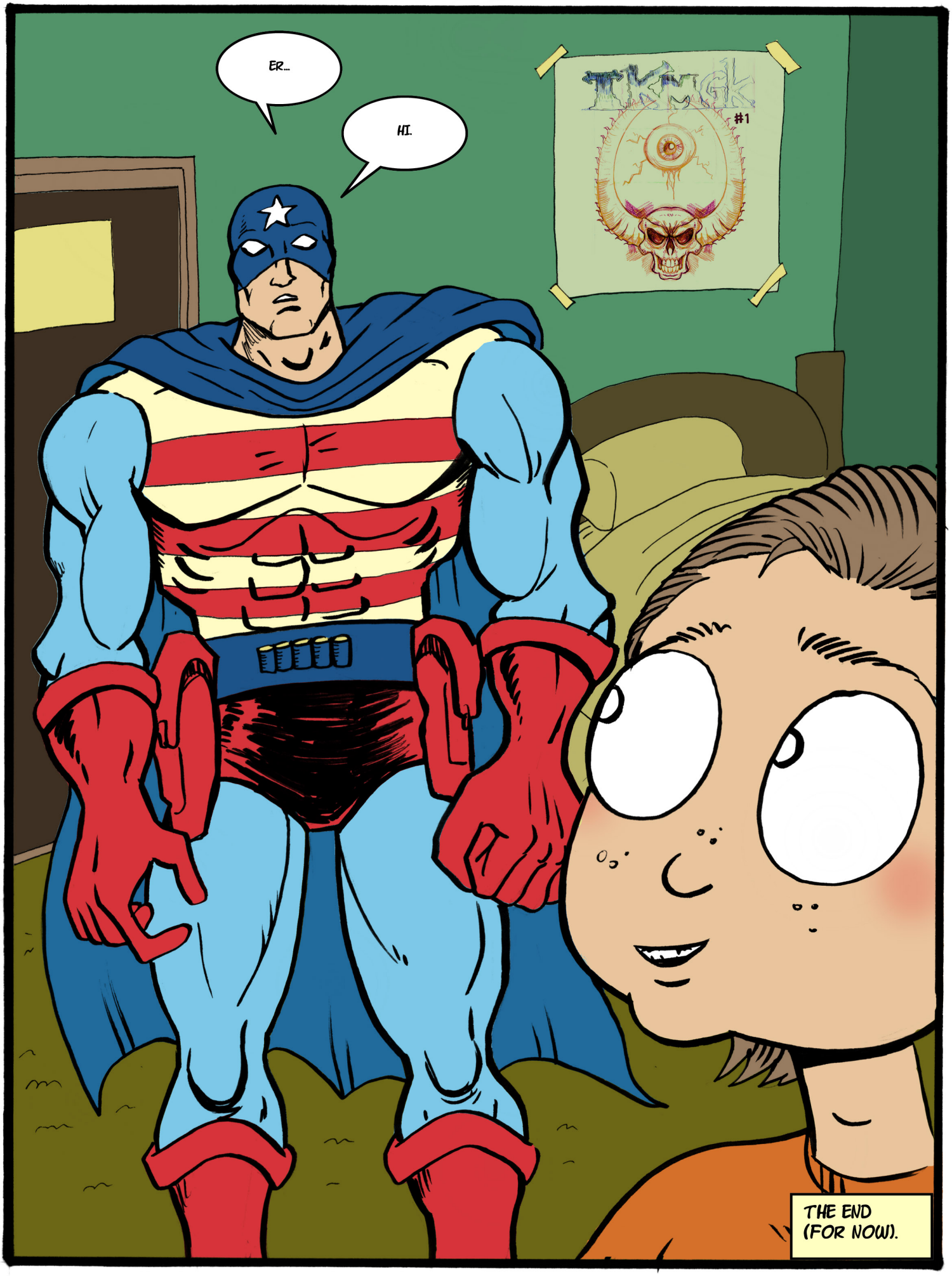

UM, GUYS? "BREAKING BAD"?
SERIOUSLY, A LOT HAPPENS BEFORE THEY EVEN ROLL THE OPENING CREDITS.
FAIR ENOUGH, JIM. LET'S GO INSIDE.
BESIDES, VIC HAS A PHONE CALL TO MAKE.
YOU MEAN TO LAURA? I JUST MIGHT.
YOU SHOULD.
BUT FIRST, HAVE YOU HEARD FROM ANY OF THE RESIDENTS OF SUPERSTOWN?
WELL, NO. NOT YET.
SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?
I HOPE NOT. ALL MY READINGS INDICATED EVERYONE GOT OUT SAFELY BEFORE THE FACEPAGE SERVER CRASHED.
AS TO WHERE EACH OF THEM ENDED UP...


"... WE WILL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW LIFE PLAYS OUT."
FA
OOOO!


EEP!
UH...
BLIP!


DUDE! YOU WILL NOT **BELIEVE** WHAT JUST HAPPENED!!!
HOLY CRAP! A guy just came out of the PC and he HAS A SKULL FOR A FACE!!!!!! :-o
BRO! THIS HOT CHICK JUST CAME OUT OF MY COMPUTER! I SWEAR I'M NOT LYING THIS TIME!!
I've got one who says his name is "ROY THE SUPER BOY!" You've got to SEE the stupid clothes he's wearing! Wait while I set up the webcam! ZOMG!!!!
There's some old guy in my room, and he has a dog with him! Like, "STRANGER DANGER!!!"
am i the only one with a talking worm ?
I just had a power surge and there's a guy dressed like a zebra in my room right now! Do I call the cops or animal control?


BLIP!!


ER...
HI.
#1
THE END
(FOR NOW).